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Peres announces he won't run for PM in 2000 'It's time for a change'

LABOR leader Shimon Peres announced last night that he would not be a candidate for prime minister in the 2000 elections.

"I think the time has come for a change," Peres told Channel 1 last night, ending months of speculation about his political future. "I won't run in the year 2000 to be prime minister."

He said he would remain party leader until the Labor Party's internal elections slated for July 1997.

The announcement set the stage for a bitter succession battle in the Labor Party.

Peres refused to say who he would back as his successor. But when asked by interviewer Nissim

Mishal whether he supported the apparent front-runner MK Ehud Barak, he replied: "Barak has the qualifications to be prime minister, and there are a few other [party] members who have the talent to be prime minister. I don't rule out anyone."

In any case, Peres said he "will not retire from the struggle for peace. One can do a lot without being prime minister. I don't intend to give up the fight for what I believe in even by one centimeter."

Peres's announcement took no one in Labor by surprise, but its timing did.

Both Peres loyalists and detractors noted last

night that only a day earlier, when the post-mortem on his electoral defeat was presented to the press, Peres left the door wide open for the possibility that he would throw his hat in the ring yet again.

He said he expected to face the public's judgment in the future, and when asked if that meant he would run, he irritably replied that he would make that decision in due time.

The analysis of the May defeat composed by

MK Shevah Weiss did not directly place blame on Peres.

However, no one among the party leadership assumed that Peres would in four years — at the age of 77 — really run for prime minister.

If he did harbor any inclination to do so, it is believed that Barak's recently announced candidacy in effect nipped whatever lingering hopes Peres might have entertained.

Peres had earlier hoped to postpone the contest for the party leadership until 1999, a year before the nation goes to the polls.

However, in the Channel 1 interview last night, he said: "The party must stick to its schedule for

elections, according to which the party convention is to meet at the beginning of 1997 to be followed by the elections in mid-1997..."

"The election process actually will begin in January or February when a committee will be chosen which will decide on the election rules."

Early primaries are considered to be a disadvantage to MK Haim Ramon, seen as Barak's chief adversary. It was in Ramon's interest to put the leadership bout off for as long as possible, since he is now in the underdog position, especially as his failed campaign strategy is under strong fire.

SARAH HONIG

Shahak: No dramatic moves by Syrian army

ELDAD BECK and news agencies

IDF Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said yesterday that in recent days there have been no dramatic movements of Syrian forces, but IDF forces will be put on a state of alert if it becomes necessary.

"There is movement of [Syrian] forces that has already started some time ago, we're following this movement, we study it, we hear what the Syrians are saying [about the movement] and we will reach our own conclusions," said Shahak, who is on an official visit to France.

"We have to keep an eye on what is happening, and see how the situation is developing; the Syrians have their own calculations, they have explained part of them. We're following the situation, if it is necessary to put forces on a state of alert we will do so," said Shahak.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher will meet with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara in New York next week to discuss the tension between Israel and Syria, according to reports from the State Department in Washington. The two will meet at the UN General Assembly.

Shahak stressed that he saw no reason to get into complicated estimations. "The fact is that the Syrians moved forces from Lebanon, toward the Syrian-Lebanon border and into the Syrian territory," Shahak added.

Shahak arrived Monday in Paris for a four-day visit, at the invitation of the French chief of staff. Shahak held talks with the heads of the French army and visited bases of elite units.

"I met a real French interest and readiness to cooperate and do things together," Shahak said.

He noted he didn't change the program of his visit because of the developments on the Syrian front.

IDF training on the Golan, Page 2

Syria: Israeli policy could lead to war, Page 2

Kibbutz cows get their just desserts

LIAT COLLINS

LIFE is sweet for the lucky cows who live at Kibbutz Ein Hamifratz in western Galilee.

They eat ice cream.

The 320 cows at Ein Hamifratz have been receiving their just desserts for the past two months. Every morning, a truck from the nearby Strauss dairy delivers a ton of ice cream to the kibbutz cowsheds.

The dairy is happy. The ice cream is production surplus determined unfit for human consumption. Finding a cheap means of having its waste simply gobbled up is a handy solution for the plant, which has been forced to comply with stricter rules on industrial waste disposal in recent years.

The cows are reportedly licking their lips. Before the ice cream, they were used to cheese water. Happier still are the cowhands. Not only are the satisfied cows producing more milk, but apparently the stench of rotten vegetables, which marks cowsheds elsewhere, is gradually giving way to a sweet vanilla-flavored aroma.

Despite Health Ministry warnings that the ice cream is not for human consumption, large quantities of the new delicacy began to disappear before the cows got a chance to lick at it. The kibbutz in-house video channel even screened a satire on the food fad, but to no avail: members were not cowed, and the dessert continues to disappear.



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai shakes hands with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat at the start of their meeting yesterday at Erez in the Gaza Strip. (Reuters)

Arafat: Approval of 1,800 units over Green Line is breach of agreement Ross says settlement policy complicates negotiations

HERB KEINON and JON IMMANUEL

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's approval of plans to build some 1,800 housing units in the haredi settlement of Mattityahu/Kiryat Sefer, located just over the Green Line in the Modi'in region, raised the ire yesterday of the Palestinian Authority, the US and peace activists.

The State Department's Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross met with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza and was compelled to address the issue of the new settlement housing.

"This decision which has been taken by Mr. Mordechai concerning building new houses is another breach of what has been agreed upon and what has been signed," Arafat said at a press conference.

Ross responded that "the American policy on settlement policy has not changed. We continue to see that it's a problem. We continue to see it's the kind of activity which complicates the negotiating process."

Ross did not use the customary word "obstacle" which Palestinians see as a stronger condemnation than "problem."

Peace Now first reported on the settlement plan being approved. According to the group, which is closely monitoring building plans and construction in the settlements, this is the

largest planned development in the settlements that has been approved since the new government came to power in May.

Under a government decision that reversed the settlement freeze, all new building in the settlements — as well as the placement of mobile homes — must be approved by Mordechai.

Mordechai's office would neither deny or confirm the reports, but said that the defense minister, along with the lines of the government policies, is discussing various plans. "Every approval given is looked at from a legal and security point of view," Mordechai's office said in a statement. "What is being discussed is not new settlements, but approval of existing plans for existing settlements."

Settlement officials said that smaller development projects in Givat Ze'ev, Ma'aleh Adumim and Har Adar have also been approved by Mordechai. What all these projects, as well as the Mattityahu/Kiryat Sefer project have in common, is that they are slated for settlements just beyond the Green Line which are likely to stay inside Israel in any future border readjustments.

As a result, settlement leaders played down

the significance of the plans in Mattityahu/Kiryat Sefer. "This is nothing to get excited about," said Yechiel Leiter, spokesman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. "This is just across from Modi'in, it is not 1,800 units in the heart of Judea and Samaria."

Leiter said that Mordechai is merely approving what former prime minister Shimon Peres promised haredi leaders he would build in Kiryat Sefer. The difference, Leiter said, "is that whereas Peres promised to build, but probably would not have done so, this government is implementing the plans."

According to Peace Now, the development will spread over some 150 dunams, and will increase the population of Mattityahu/Kiryat Sefer, today some 2,900 people, nearly eightfold. Peace Now sent a letter to Mordechai protesting the plans, and expressing "amazement" that he would approve the plans just prior to last night's meeting with Arafat.

Peace Now spokesmen said it is not surprising that building will begin in a place like Mattityahu/Kiryat Sefer, since it is politically less problematic because of its proximity to the Green Line and it is politically wise for the government to build for haredim.

11 North Koreans found dead in South Korea in apparent infiltration botch-up

SEOUL (Reuters) — South Korean troops staged a massive nighttime hunt yesterday for eight North Koreans believed to be at large after a North Korean submarine ran aground and 11 suspected infiltrators were found shot dead.

Soldiers found 10 dead bodies lying side-by-side in a forest clearing near the east coast city of Kangnung, with the 11th slumped to the ground nearby. Authorities believe each was shot by a companion, and the 11th — who was found with a handgun — nursed it on himself. The area was strewn with grenades.

The Defense Ministry said it appeared the men, who were wearing athletic shoes and civilian clothes, were infiltrators who decided to kill themselves rather than be captured.

One North Korean, Lee Kng-soo, 31, was apprehended. He told investigators he was one of 20 communist commandos who came ashore after their submarine drifted into South Korean waters after developing engine trouble and ran aground about 145 kilometers

northeast of Seoul.

South Korea called the incident the latest and perhaps most serious of many attempts by North Korea to slip spies into the country.

Seoul angrily denounced it as a breach of the 1953 Korean War armistice agreement which sealed the partition of the peninsula. There was no immediate reaction from the Northern capital, Pyongyang.

"This incident is a grave provocation and a definite infiltration against South Korea by North Korea," the director of operations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Kim Dong-shin, said at a news conference.

Cabinet ministers who deal with security-related matters held a meeting chaired by Unification Minister Kwon O-ki and declared the infiltration "a direct threat to our national security," a unification ministry statement said.

The submarine was spotted by a taxi driver soon after midnight on Tuesday. It was stranded on rocks nine kilometers south of Kangnung.

Authorities said it apparently hit

a reef while returning to the North after dropping off infiltrators on a beach.

But there was speculation the submarine could have been sent to pick up an agent or drop off a small unit of spies — and the mission then went wrong.

Shin Sang-ki, deputy chief of operations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters troops found a machine gun with 75 rounds of ammunition, a Soviet-made rifle with 100 bullets and 75 other bullets on the vessel.

The Defense Ministry said the Sang-o class submarine measured 34 meters in length and weighed 330 tons. North Korea has about 10 of these submarines, each capable of carrying 21 people, a ministry official said.

Thousands of troops and police using sniffer dogs combed terrain around the beach as helicopters roared overhead. They set up checkpoints on all main roads. Naval vessels and a reconnaissance plane joined the search.

After a dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed, two North Koreans burst into a village home and stole

Mordechai, Arafat meet at Erez

Steering committee to discuss Hebron redeployment

DAVID MAKOVSKY, JON IMMANUEL, ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and Itim

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat met yesterday for nearly four hours on the Palestinian side of the Erez checkpoint, in a bid to hammer out the principles of a Hebron redeployment agreement.

"I met today, for the first time, with Abu Amar [Arafat's nom de guerre], the chairman, and a group of people from the Palestinian Authority," Mordechai said at their joint press conference after the meeting. "We spoke in a serious and pertinent way on a number of issues. We decided that the [steering] committee will convene in the near future and will discuss details, and when it has in its hands the framework of an agreement, we will convene again and discuss further issues on the agenda."

He said he is linking easing the closure with a crackdown on terrorists.

"We expect a further effort to tackle the problems still existing on the ground to prevent unwanted actions and to strengthen security. As long as security is strengthened, we can advance with the processes themselves and do our utmost to ease and support the Palestinian Authority in those areas in which we can do so. I want to thank Abu Amar for hosting me tonight," Mordechai said.

Arafat described the meeting as positive, but when asked if he had agreed to make any changes in the Hebron agreement, he said that "the steering committee will carry on all these details."

Mordechai said that "Hebron is a very complicated subject. We are trying together to find the best solution for both sides and we will find it."

Looking stern as the meeting opened, Mordechai took Arafat's extended hand and held it for the photographers to snap their photos. Arafat glanced at the minister of defense, but Mordechai refused to meet his gaze.

Attending the entire meeting on the Israeli side were Brig.-Gen. David Agmon, the Defense Ministry's representative to the steering committee, and Brig.-Gen. Ya'acov Amirdor. The forum was later enlarged to include General Security Service head Ami Ayalon, IDF planning chief Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, and Maj.-Gen. Oren Shabor, coordinator of activities in the territories.

The Palestinians said before the meeting that they insisted on achieving results.

The Palestinian officials who joined Arafat at the meeting have said repeatedly that they will not accept any renegotiation of the Hebron redeployment. So the issue has been how to produce an agreement that will let Israel show it has improved security for Israelis in Hebron, while Arafat can show that it is essentially unchanged.

One way may be to change the redeployment of forces in their respective areas of control without changing the lines on the Oslo 2 map.

Arafat planned to urge Mordechai to carry out the troop redeployment in Hebron and stop expanding settlements. PLO officials said.

"We will ask Mordechai to implement interim agreements, especially redeployment from Hebron, to lift the closure, and to revoke orders to... build more settlements and demolish Arab

(Continued on Page 2)

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500 students tour Hebron

Deputy Education Minister Peled: This is not political

DEPUTY Education Minister Moshe Peled accompanied some 500 girls from a seminary in Kibbutz Hafetz Haim to Hebron yesterday, and said this was the beginning of what he hoped would be "tour season in Hebron."

Critics quickly lashed out at Peled, saying that by using his office to encourage school visits to Hebron, he is involved in "political brainwashing."

"These tours are not political," Peled countered. "They enhance the study of Eretz Yisrael, and lead to a love for the land. It is impossible to learn about the country without going out to see it."

Peled said he is responsible for creating conditions that will make such trips possible, such as ensuring proper security for the students, and for encouraging schools "to go everywhere from Tel Hai to Hebron."

Peled said that some 15 school groups visited Hebron during the first week of school. He

HERB KEINON

dismissed claims that Hebron is too dangerous for school groups, saying that it is the IDF's responsibility to provide security so that visits are possible, adding that if you take the position that it is too dangerous to visit, "then the only safe place is in the grave. Schoolchildren got hurt in Tel Aviv and Afula," he said, referring to terror attacks that occurred there.

MK Dalia Itzik (Labor), who headed the Knesset Education Committee under the previous government, said she has nothing against visiting Hebron, but is against sending students there to achieve political goals.

"I think it is wonderful to get to know the land, but when going to Hebron becomes Peled's obsession, it has a political smell," she said. "He wants to give the students the feeling that the previous government was willing to abandon Hebron, and that the present govern-

ment - which is all great and wonderful - will preserve it. If he would work to take students to other places, I could understand his desire to instill a love of the land, but his obsession is with Hebron."

MK Yossi Sarid (Meretz) said the tours, which "have a clear political nature," are attempts to "brainwash the students. There is no room here for the establishment to become involved in tours to Hebron. This should be up to students and teachers."

Hebron settlement leaders see the tours as very significant.

"They help grant legitimacy to our being here," said David Wilder, a spokesman for the Hebron settlement. "For the last four years school groups didn't come here, and this helped those who wanted to say that Hebron doesn't belong to us, and that the army can't protect the Jews in it. These school groups are important for the settlement, both psychologically and politically."



The new year's first shiplod of new immigrants - some 300 of them - arrives in Haifa yesterday morning. They were greeted by Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein and given a special presentation on the centennial of the First Zionist Congress. (Karen Sandrick)

Syria says Israeli policies could lead to war

DAMASCUS (Reuters) - The policies of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu have caused tension in the Middle East and could lead to war, Syria said yesterday.

The remarks, which appeared in Syria's official press, were the latest sign of tension between the two countries, fueled by Syrian troop movements in Lebanon.

Fayez Sayegh, director-general of the official Syrian news agency Sana, said Israel's policy is aimed at "undermining the peace process and driving the region and its people to a state of tension and escalation... and maybe war."

Syria's official press described Israel's reaction to the Syrian redeployment in Lebanon as "a campaign of delusion and allegation," and urged the US to halt "Israel's uproar which is currently taking the shape of a military threat."

Al-Baath was sceptical about the chance of a breakthrough during US Middle East envoy Dennis Ross's current visit to the region.

"(Ross's tour) might not make tangible results, because it will again be confronted with Netanyahu's obstinacy," the newspaper said.

Meanwhile, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said he does not expect increased Israeli military action in south Lebanon.

"According to our information and in our estimate, military escalation in south Lebanon is not likely," Hariri told a delegation from the Lebanese Publishers' Syndicate.

Hariri said success in peace talks between Lebanon and Israel depends on an Israeli troop pullout from the south.

"The peace process depends on Israel... We hope for peace. Let Israel pull out and peace will take place," he added.

Armored Corps holds Golan exercise

THE IDF's Armored Corps staged exercises and competitions on the Golan Heights yesterday, as Syria continued its verbal attacks against the government's policies.

The tank maneuvers, which followed a divisional training exercise the previous day, were described as routine.

Nevertheless, senior military sources stressed that the Armored Corps is prepared for any future military development.

OC Armored Corps Brig.-Gen. Dubi Tal said most of the competition, which last year was held in the Jordan Valley, was to examine the fitness and professional expertise of the tank crews, individually and at unit level.

"The exercise shows that the

Armored Corps knows how to combine new technology, such as the Merkava Mark 3, and the quality of fighters and commanders who know how to get the most out of earlier tanks and the new one, and that man and machine together can reach the highest possible level," he said.

He noted that the competition was leading up to Armored Corps Day, which will include an exhibition during Succot at Rabin Square in Tel Aviv.

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine, who observed the exercise, also stressed that they were "routine."

"I wouldn't say there is no connection [with the tension with

DAVID RUDGE

Syria], but there is a great deal of exaggeration," Levine said.

He noted that the IDF is less concerned with assessing intentions and more with taking precautions and making preparations for any eventuality.

"The Syrian army has serious capabilities, which require us to prepare accordingly - and that's what we're doing," he said.

Radio Damascus, meanwhile, maintained that the IDF had moved reinforcements into the security zone in south Lebanon.

There was no confirmation of these reports. UNIFIL officers said they had seen no changes in the IDF presence in the area.

Syria also claimed the IDF had shelled Soujeid, north of the security zone, on Tuesday and that IAF aircraft were constantly staging flights over Lebanon.

The heavy bombardments reported by the Syrian media, however, were about 30 shells, according to a count made by UNIFIL, which were fired Tuesday night in response to long-range attacks by Hizbullah on two South Lebanese Army positions in the Jezzeine enclave, north of the security zone.

In another incident, Hizbullah gunmen fired several mortars at SLA troops in the eastern sector of the zone, prompting IDF and SLA return fire. There were no casualties among SLA or IDF troops.

COMMENT

DAVID MAKOVSKY

Six Day War emerged from miscalculation. Yet, if we conduct routine overflight reconnaissance activity in the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon, does this get interpreted by the Syrians as an act of intended war? Or if we anticipate a Syrian move, do we launch a preemptive strike? It is very easy to miscalculate.

However, military officials projected calmness to ministers at yesterday's cabinet meeting.

Israel was hoping that once it conveyed that it had no belligerent intentions, Syria would drop its Mt. Hermon troop deployment, but so far, this has not happened.

Netanyahu, meanwhile, aggravated the situation by making tough

statements which he thought would have deterrent value against Hizbullah attacks but which Syria interpreted as being offensive.

Netanyahu sees himself as someone whose mettle is being tested by a wily, shrewd Assad, just as Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev tested an inexperienced John Kennedy during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. The prime minister has declared that he thinks Assad is seeking to squeeze Israel into making political concessions before returning to the negotiating table.

Indeed, and perhaps ironically so, this could make it harder for Netanyahu to come back to the table, since every concession Netanyahu makes would be against the backdrop of Syrian troop movements. Assad also may find it harder to return to the table

now that Israelis have confirmed that Yitzhak Rabin was - albeit provisionally and conditionally - interested in yielding the entire Golan up to the seashore of the Kinneret but this government is absolutely not.

With these troop movements, Syria seems to be sending a political message no less than a military message. It seems to be saying that those who think it is risky to yield the Golan for peace - as Rabin sought to do - may now find that there is a higher price to pay by holding on to the Heights.

SYRIA and Israel have exchanged messages by way of the US, saying that neither state intends to go to war. They now must avoid miscalculations that could lead to unwanted conflict.

Israel is most focused on the estimated 8,000 members of Syria's crack "special forces" of the 14th division, who recently moved from Beirut to the northern

slopes of Mt. Hermon, not far from where Israel has its major early warning station. The Yom Kippur War opened with the Syrians launching a commando attack on Mt. Hermon.

In an attempt to play down this move's significance, Syrian officials say that the division was located in the same place in 1986, before Syrian President Hafez

Assad dispatched it to Beirut.

However, the special forces are known as an offensive strike force, and therefore their presence and that of the estimated 9,000 or so members of the Syrian mechanized 10th Division, which moved from Beirut to the Bekaa Valley, seem designed to send a message to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's government.

Syria may be signaling that if Israel thinks it can retaliate against Hizbullah by hitting Syrian positions in the Bekaa, it is in for a surprise, since Assad also has options, now that he has positioned troops near Mt. Hermon.

Former IDF chief of staff and Labor MK Ehud Barak said he was wary of miscalculations leading to conflict.

"There are so many scenarios for miscalculation," he said. "The

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Heartfelt condolences to

David, Loren, Gaby and Jonny
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Irvin, Bernice, Ora, Dana and Ilan Missulawin

With deep sorrow we announce the untimely passing of our dear husband, father, grandfather and brother

Rabbi HAROLD TRATTNER הרב
Mourning by his wife: Shirley
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Daughters: Aviva Rubinnoff and Adina Appel and grandchildren
Sister: Gussie Friedlander

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Mubarak: Rabin did promise full withdrawal from Golan

CAIRO (AP) - Prime minister Yitzhak Rabin promised the US and Egypt that he would withdraw from the Golan Heights, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in an interview published yesterday.

"Rabin told the American administration and told me personally that he was ready for a full withdrawal from the Golan," Mubarak told the newspaper *Al-Hayat*.

"But he wanted to know what he would get in exchange. He wanted normalization and normal relations," Mubarak said.

"The disclosure was the latest report that Rabin had promised to leave the Golan."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has confirmed that Rabin made the pledge, but said the US does not

believe Israel is bound by the promise.

"The new prime minister does not want to be held by the promises of the previous government," Mubarak said in the interview. "But wasn't that a government of Israel or was it a government of another country?"

Mubarak warned that Netanyahu's position threatens to further sour Israel's strained relations with Arab states.

"Even the signed agreements [Netanyahu] wants to reconsider, and this is unacceptable and creates deep suspicions," he said. "Let's assume that if the present government gave new promises, then goes. Will the coming government refuse to abide by them? Mutual trust cannot be achieved this way."

MORDECHAI

(Continued from Page 1)

homes," said Tayeb Abdel-Rahim, general secretary of the Palestinian Chairman's Office.

"If Mordechai submits requests for changing the agreement, we will refuse, because we reject renegotiating or modifying any signed agreement."

At one point during the meeting Arafat sent out his chief of protocol to ask Israeli reporters if Shimon Peres had decided to leave political life, as rumors based on his Channel 1 TV interview last night suggested.

Mordechai reportedly laid out the principles for the Hebron redeployment.

"The defense minister presented to Arafat only general principles connected with redeployment in Hebron, which will be brought before the cabinet for approval in the future," the Prime Minister's Office said last night.

The statement came after six of the 11 inner cabinet ministers complained yesterday to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that they were not made privy to the ideas on Hebron redeployment that Mordechai was planning to put to Arafat.

Complaining about Hebron were National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, Science Minister Ze'ev Begin, Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and Internal Security Minister Avigdor

Kahalani.

But Netanyahu said that the

cabinet had authorized a three-man panel - himself, Mordechai and Foreign Minister David Levy - to deal with all issues relating to negotiations with the Palestinians and therefore he would not divulge these ideas now. They will be brought to the full cabinet only after the negotiations, he said.

The US, meanwhile, is urging Israel to make a variety of gestures that would improve the Palestinians' economic conditions, officials said.

There are indications that US Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross will raise the possibilities of easing the Palestinian economic situation during his talks here.

Sources say the US would like Israel to:

- Enable Palestinian commerce between Gaza and the West Bank to grow by inaugurating safe passage routes, as called for in the Oslo declaration of principles. Palestinians do not object to IDF-supervised escorts, thereby addressing concerns that trucks would stay in Israel. The first passage road would be from Gaza to Turkmaniye, near Hebron.

The US would like to see greater access given to Palestinian businessmen seeking to travel between the West Bank and Gaza.

- Quicken the pace of security inspections for Palestinian exports to Egypt and Jordan. The IDF has agreed to supervise private Israeli security firms actually conducting the searches to ease manpower constraints, but more inspectors are needed.

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STORES: ZION SO

B'Tselem: Lift restrictions on new Gush Etzion road

IDF: Security, convenience are at issue

B'TSELEM yesterday wrote to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai demanding that the new tunnel road between Gush Etzion and Jerusalem be opened to Palestinians who have permits to enter the capital.

"Permitting only Jews to use the road contravenes principles of international law, justice and morality," the human rights organization wrote.

JON IMMANUEL

The decision to bar Palestinians from the four-kilometer stretch of road, which cuts travel time to Hebron by almost half, was taken to avoid placing an additional major checkpoint on a road into Jerusalem, the IDF spokesman said last week. A new checkpoint would eliminate some of the time saved on the journey from Gush Etzion.

"Who needs another checkpoint when the Palestinians have other roads into Jerusalem via Bethlehem and Beit Jala?" a military source said.

Since the report, several human rights organizations have complained about the separation measure, which contravenes the state's declared policy that roads built by Israel in the West Bank are for all its residents.

Haredi girls school closed down over discrimination dispute

A HAREDI girls school in Bnei Brak closed down yesterday until a solution can be found to a dispute in which parents of Sephardi children have accused the school of separating Sephardi and Ashkenazi pupils.

The Sephardi parents have not sent their children to school since the beginning of the year, saying that the division of pupils in this fashion is discriminatory.

A decision to close the school, Sha'arei Aharon, was made on Tuesday after Sephardi parents burst into the classroom of Ashkenazi pupils and forced the teachers and pupils to leave the school grounds. The parents, school principal and the neighborhood rabbi all agreed

to close the school.

The heads of the haredi Atzma'i school network met yesterday to discuss what they called the "serious incident of violence that occurred in the school."

Parents of the Ashkenazi pupils who were forced out of their classes accused the Sephardi parents of acting violently and threatening the pupils. During the incident, the school principal stayed locked in her office, with three guards stationed outside.

On Tuesday, an Education Ministry committee set up to examine the dispute had announced that the classes would be reorganized according to last year's arrangement,

under which the Ashkenazi and Sephardi pupils were mixed, and the Sephardi pupils would return to school.

However, Education Ministry Director-General Ben-Zion Del, who headed the committee, said that in the coming days a wider committee, including parents, municipal officials, and haredi educators would conduct a thorough discussion of the situation in the school and the parents' complaints, and would work to find a permanent solution to the problem.

Tsomet MK Eliezer Zandberg called for funding to be halted to haredi schools that discriminated on the basis of ethnic background. (Tim)

Rehovot woman suspected of plotting to kill violent spouse

RAINE MARCUS

A REHOVOT woman suspected of plotting to kill her violent husband was remanded yesterday by Rehovot Magistrate's Court for 10 days.

The woman, Marina Denisiyevsky, 32, was arrested with two other suspects, Roman Deniroki and Alexander Donyev, who were remanded for the same period on suspicion of extortion and their alleged part in the murder plot.

Denisiyevsky's husband is currently awaiting trial on two charges of violence against his wife.

The two men were first arrested on extortion charges, and during

their investigation Rehovot detectives discovered that Marina Denisiyevsky had allegedly hired them to find someone to kill her husband. They then threatened Denisiyevsky when they did not receive \$2,000 in payment for their services, saying they would murder her and her family if she did not pay up.

Eventually she paid the money, but the two men were arrested and the murder plot surfaced.

In remanding the three, Judge Zvi Hartal said that the case was an "extremely complicated one" and that additional suspects must be interrogated.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Teacher collapses in classroom

A 30-year-old teacher who collapsed yesterday in front of her Bnei Brak pupils was saved by Magen David Adom medics and brought to the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus, where she is in serious but stable conditions.

MDA staffers rushed to the haredi girls' school and found the teacher unconscious, with no respiration or heartbeat. The team, assisted by Hatzala first aid volunteers, started to resuscitate her. Then MDA's mobile intensive care unit arrived, gave her medications, performed heart massage and attached an exterior pacemaker.

After an hour of intensive work - during which the teacher's pulse periodically returned and then disappeared - her condition was stabilized and she was rushed to the Petah Tikva hospital. *Judy Siegel*

Tichon sends message to Syria via Chinese

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon sent calming messages to Syria via his Chinese counterpart Qiao Shi during this week's International Parliamentary Union conference in Beijing.

For the first time since the interparliamentary organization was founded, Israel took part in a joint session on the Middle East, together with Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians. Syria and Lebanon boycotted the session.

During the meeting, the Palestinians accused Israel of not abiding by agreements. Tichon and MKs Yehoshua Matza (Likud) and Ra'an Cohen (Labor) refuted the charge and stressed that the present government is also committed to signed international agreements but also to preserving national security. *Liat Collins*

75-year-old sentenced for drunken attack

The Rehovot Magistrate's Court sentenced a 75-year-old Rishon LeZion man to five months' imprisonment plus a 10-month suspended sentence for attacking his wife and eight-year-old grandson.

On August 15, after consuming a number of alcoholic beverages, the man returned home, brandishing a knife. He stabbed his wife several times in the arms and chest; she lost a significant amount of blood and had to undergo surgery. The man also threw his grandson onto a bed and struck him several times on the head.

In deciding on the sentence, Judge Haran Feinstein said he considered the prosecution's request for a prolonged prison sentence, the severity of the offense, the defendant's age and the threat the defendant poses to his family.

The defendant, who arrived in Israel 10 months ago, shares an apartment with his wife, several of their married children, and their grandchildren. *Tim*

Zameret Committee seeks to expand review

The Zameret Committee, investigating the issue of Shabbat traffic in Jerusalem, is seeking a legal opinion on whether its brief includes the issue of public transportation on Shabbat, Reba Carmel, the committee's spokesperson, said yesterday.

Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy appointed the committee following a ruling by the High Court of Justice that keeps Rehov Bar-Ilan open on Shabbat pending the committee's report. A decision is expected on the issue after Yom Kippur. *Haim Shapiro*

3 women join petition to High Court against police

Jerusalem Post Staff

ANOTHER three women yesterday joined the petition filed by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) in the name of women discriminated against by the police in both hiring and promotion.

After the petition - against the internal security minister, police inspector-general, and police personnel director - was filed in April, the High Court ordered the police to explain why it discriminated against women.

In the three affidavits filed yesterday, one policewoman complained about sexual discrimination in assignments, and two other women claimed they were rejected by the force because they are women.

Signal Sogankur, who worked for the police during her two-year stint of National Service and today serves as a uniformed volunteer, took part in patrols, guarded public events, and checked cars. Nevertheless, even though she passed all the required examinations, and received letters from the force recommending that she join, she was rejected. This despite her assurances that she "would serve anywhere in the country and in any role assigned her."

Surgeon: New bike design causes serious injuries

MODERN bicycle designs, with short handlebars that rotate a full 360 degrees on a metal shaft, are causing new types of injuries, according to Prof. Shmuel Katz, head of the pediatric surgery department at Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava.

A number of serious accidents have occurred recently, all the result of falling on the short handlebars. Katz said that three children were

admitted with such injuries during the past few days. Two suffered lacerations of the liver, and one had a lacerated spleen.

The older bike design, with elevated handlebars, resulted in less serious injuries, Katz said. Children who fell on the metal suffered trauma across the abdomen. But falling on short handlebars can cause the puncturing of internal organs. *Judy Siegel*

NOTICE TO ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS

The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to inform its customers that:

on Erev Yom Kippur, September 22, 1996 all its offices will be closed to the public.

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Guest Lecturer
Sir Aaron Klug, OM, FRS, President of the Royal Society, Nobel Laureate
On the subject of
The Molecular Biology of Alzheimer's Disease
Thursday, September 19, 1996, at 11 a.m.
in the Auditorium of the Soroka Medical Center Outpatient Clinic.

This lecture is being given in conjunction with the world-wide observance of the International Day for Alzheimer's Disease on September 21, 1996.

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Jewish family from Beirut visits Safed grave

A JEWISH family from Beirut came to Safed for the first time on Tuesday to visit the grave of a relative who was buried in the town in 1982.

In the midst of the Lebanon War, the IDF asked the Safed religious council to help bury a Beirut Jew in the town, at his family's request. The council made all of the arrangements for his burial.

The family members, who asked to keep their identity secret, were surprised to find a tombstone on the grave.

"We thought the grave would be bare, since we

did not order a tombstone," one of the family members said.

The council representatives explained that they had financed the erection of the tombstone, and the family thanked them.

As a result of the visit, the family is considering buying additional plots in the Safed cemetery, saying that the Lebanese authorities would allow family members to be buried there.

"But we hope there will soon be peace and there won't be a problem," a relative said. (Tim)

Ports and Railways Authority

The Israel Ports and Railways Authority ("PRA") invites Consulting Firms

with International Experience in Planning and Design of Marine Harbour Structures to Participate in the following TENDERS:

1. No. 12/0816/021/96 for providing design, consulting and supervisory services for THE EXTENSION OF HAIFA PORT (HAIFA EAST B)
2. No. 12/0314/017/96 for providing design, consulting and supervisory services for THE EXTENSION OF ASHDOD PORT (ASHDOD NORTH)

The Projects consist, inter alia, of the design of breakwaters, quays, dredging, land reclamation and land development.

The selection of the Consulting Firm for each Project will be conducted as an open public competitive process and will not involve negotiations.

This Tender is being conducted pursuant to the Agreement on Government Procurement and in accordance with the Tender Laws of the State of Israel.

The Tender documents for both tenders may be obtained beginning on September 16, 1996 and until October 31, 1996, between 08:30 and 14:30, Sundays through Thursdays on business days, from: ISRAEL PORTS AND RAILWAYS AUTHORITY Head Office, Beit Maya, 12th floor, room 1221, 74 Petach-Tikva Rd., Tel-Aviv, Israel. Tel: 972-3-5657018 Fax: 972-3-5616541. Attn: Mrs. N. Kariv. against payment of NIS 2,500 + VAT (two thousand five hundred New Israeli Shekels, plus value added Tax) for each tender.

- All responses to the Tenders, completed in English, should be submitted to the above address in a sealed envelope as set out in the Tender Documentation so that they are received by the PRA not later than 14:00 on Thursday, December 12th, 1996. The selection process shall be governed solely by the provisions contained in the Tender. The sealed Tenders shall be opened at The Head Office of the PRA by the designated officials of the PRA at 10:00 on Sunday, December 15, 1996.
- A Joint Conference in connection with both Projects will be held at the Port of Ashdod, Visitors Center, on October 21, 1996, at 10:00. At the Joint Conference, the PRA shall present both projects and answer questions and clarify matters referred to it by the potential Proponents. All those interested in submitting a proposal MUST attend the Joint Conference. Potential proponents should confirm their participation in the Joint Conference with Mrs. N. Kariv not later than October 20, 1996, Tel: 972-3-5657018, Fax: 972-3-5616541.
- Transportation will be provided from the PRA Head Office in Tel Aviv noted above to the Port of Ashdod and back. A visit to the Ashdod North Site will follow immediately after the Joint Conference. A visit to the Haifa-East Site will be conducted on October 22, 1996 with transportation to and from Tel Aviv being provided as above.
- These Tenders are published simultaneously. Proponents are permitted to submit proposals to both Tenders. However, the PRA will not select one proponent for the performance of the design of the two Projects.
- It is anticipated that the duration of the consulting firm's works for Haifa East B would be for a period of approximately seven (7) years. With regard to Ashdod North works, it is anticipated that the consulting firm's works would be for a period of approximately seven (7) years. The consulting firm's works shall commence as soon as possible after the issuance of a detailed Start Order by the PRA.
- The PRA reserves the right, in its discretion, to secure from the consulting firm providing the Haifa East B Services "Additional Services" with regard to the Haifa East C and Haifa East D Projects. Any such "Additional Services" shall be similar to those required for the Haifa East B Project. The payment and rates to be paid to the consulting firm with regard to Project "C" or "D" Services will be identical to the rates according to the staff categories and linkage as set out in the documentation for the Haifa East B Project.
- For each of the Tenders, the PRA will only consider Proposals submitted by Proponents which meet the requirements detailed hereinbelow. A Proposal submitted by a Proponent not fulfilling the following requirements will not be considered.
- The firm intended by the Proponent to execute the Contract with the PRA (independent of other consulting firms and experts participating with it) must have international experience in the planning and design of marine projects in the last fifteen (15) years.
- In addition, the firm intended by the proponent to execute the Contract with the PRA (independent of other consulting firms and experts participating with it in the Proposal) must have experience in the planning and design of marine engineering projects, in its home, country and in other countries, of a construction cost (not including operation equipment such as ship to shore cranes, stacking cranes etc.) of at least US\$350,000,000 over the past 10 years. A list of projects, verified by the accountant of the firm intended by the Proponent to execute the Contract with the PRA, shall be attached to the proposal as an integral part thereof.
- A Selected Non-Israeli Proponent must enter into an undertaking with the State of Israel with regard to Commercial Cooperation. The Commercial Cooperation shall be in the form of local Israeli subcontracting and/or the incorporation of local Israeli engineering, design and consulting services which involve substantial engineering content at a volume of at least 15% of the Contract Price. Services purchased by the Proponent or other actions taken pursuant to the undertaking shall be required to be carried out only on competitive and/or commercially justified terms, including price and quality.
- The proponent (including all firms and experts participating in the Proposal), must be able to demonstrate clear, detailed and recent (during the preceding 10 years) experience in the design and supervision of the following:
 - Major port projects: experience in planning and design of projects each exceeding construction cost of US\$50 million.
 - Breakwaters including formulation of design wave conditions, geotechnical design, physical modeling design and specification of armour units, specification of armour rock, their supply and placement;
 - Dredging and land reclamation;
 - A range of quay wall structures including geotechnical and structural analysis, land development and utilities;
 - Experience in port design and port operation.

THIS NOTICE IS BEING REPRINTED, DUE TO A PRINTING ERROR IN THE PREVIOUS ISSUES OF "JERUSALEM POST", "HAARETZ" AND "YEDIYOT AHARONOT" OF SEPT. 16, 1996.

Papon ordered to stand trial

News agencies

PARIS - An appeals court has ordered Maurice Papon, a former Vichy official, to stand trial for arresting and deporting 1,690 Jews during World War II, giving families of the dead a bitter-sweet victory in a 15-year battle.

The court ruled yesterday in Bordeaux that the 86-year-old Frenchman must face a jury to account for his role in the pro-Nazi regime's collaboration in the extermination of Jews.

Papon's lawyer immediately filed an appeal, delaying the start of a trial by at least six months - and further frustrating victims and their families who want him on the stand before he dies.

"If there's going to be a trial, it has to be soon," said Juliette Dray, 62, who narrowly escaped a Papon sweep in 1942. "Little by little, we're all dying off."

Jean Leguay and Maurice Sabatier, Papon's superiors, died in 1989 before they could be tried as Nazi collaborators. Rene Bousquet, the national police chief during the war, was killed by a publicity-seeker in 1993 on the eve of his war crimes trial.

Papon is only the second Frenchman to be sent to trial for such crimes and may well be the last. A lower-ranking collaborator, former militia officer Paul Touvier, was jailed for life in 1994 and died in prison this year aged 81.

The Bordeaux court went further than prosecutors had sought, sending Papon to a jury trial in an assize court on charges of being an accomplice to the murder and kidnapping of 10 convoys of deportees. Prosecutors had earmarked just four convoys.

The court also approved charges

that Papon was an accomplice to arbitrary arrests, the arrest of minors under 15 years old, inhuman acts and attempted illegal arrests.

"[Papon] knowingly supplied the authors of these crimes the help and assistance necessary to their preparation," it read.

The arrests of minors "were part of a concerted and systematic plan carried out for and in the name of a state enforcing a policy of ideological hegemony," it said.

For years, Papon himself seemed untouchable, enjoying meteoric post-war career until the satirical weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné* revealed his wartime activities in 1981. Since then, he has benefited from delaying tactics by governments and justice officials keen to avoid a trial.

After the war he went on to become a top politician with enormous clout. Gen. Charles De Gaulle named him National Police chief during the Algerian War, and former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing gave him the prestigious Budget Ministry portfolio.

The trial will determine whether Papon is accountable for his actions while he was a local police supervisor from 1942 to 1944.

Despite the evidence, Papon continued to benefit from secret protection from the late President Francois Mitterrand, who admitted in 1994 that he opposed trying old men for war crimes and had personally intervened to stall the proceedings.

Papon, who recently underwent heart bypass surgery, was not present for yesterday's ruling. It was read in a courtroom packed with grieving victims and their families - most already older than their relatives were when they died.

Moslem leader wins most votes in Bosnian election

SRECKO LATAL
SARAJEVO

MOSLEM leader Alija Izetbegovic won the most votes in Bosnia's presidential election, sparking street celebrations yesterday for the first chairman of the new three-man presidency. He was the only one of the three to favor a unified Bosnia.

A close second to Izetbegovic in the election was Serb nationalist Momcilo Krajisnik, who campaigned for the Serb half of the country to secede from Bosnia. Croat nationalist Kresimir Zubak finished a distant third.

Izetbegovic, first elected Bosnia's president in 1990, made a brief appearance outside his office and was cheered by the crowd on the street.

While Izetbegovic's powers as presidential chairman are mostly symbolic, he will be the man international officials turn to as they try to make Bosnia's postwar reconstruction and new government work.

Whether the presidency, created by international negotiators who stitched together the 1995 Dayton peace accord, succeeds will help

determine how many foreign troops remain in Bosnia, and for how long. About 15,000 American troops, mostly in the north, are part of the 48,000-member peace-keeping force.

"This is a great day for us," said Mirza Hajric, an aide to Izetbegovic. "Today, for the first time after four years Bosnia-Herzegovina is reunited."

Jubilant Moslems drove through the streets of Sarajevo, beeping car horns, leaning out windows and waving green and white party banners.

"I am happy for Alija's victory," said 21-year-old Amir Bicakcic. "This is the party which will take Bosnia into its future."

Robert Frowick of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said complete returns from Saturday's vote gave Izetbegovic 729,034 votes to Krajisnik's 690,373. Zubak had 342,007.

Krajisnik's key opponent for the Serb vote was the more moderate Mladen Ivanic, who made a surprisingly strong showing with 305,803 votes, or about 30 percent of the vote. Otherwise, Krajisnik might have garnered enough votes to claim the chairmanship.

Frowick said the results would become official at the end of a 72-hour appeal period. Only minor adjustments in the vote were expected.

The election was the first since the December signing of the peace agreement that ended 3 1/2 years of Balkan war.

Even before final results were in, foreign envoys were pressing the 72-year-old Izetbegovic to start working on the institutions meant to preserve peace and to keep the country intact.

The peace plan for Bosnia calls for a three-way presidency shared by a Moslem, a Serb and a Croat. The one with the highest number of votes is chairman for two years but has no specific duties or veto power. (AP)

Clinton coverup charged in travel office affair

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A US House of Representatives committee released excerpts yesterday from a report accusing the White House of obstruction, encouraged at the "highest levels," of investigations into the firing of the president's travel office staff.

The summary of a two-year investigation was released by the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee amid partisan squabbling and a walkout by Democrats.

"Covering up the true story behind the travel office matter led to the White House's obstruction of numerous investigations," the report said. "The

obstruction was conducted, overseen and encouraged by those at the 'highest levels' of the White House."

It said that after the 1993 firings were met with controversy in the press, "the White House immediately initiated a disinformation campaign," trying to contain the responsibility to former aide David Watkins "even though his actions undeniably were precipitated by pressures from above."

The panel's senior Democrat, Henry Waxman of California, accused the Republicans of "a crassly partisan smear campaign against President Clinton, Mrs. Clinton and this administration."

Spiro Agnew dead at 77

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland (AP) - Spiro T. Agnew, Richard Nixon's vice president, who rallied against the media and became the only holder of his office to resign in disgrace, is dead at age 77.

Agnew died Tuesday of undiagnosed leukemia at Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin, near his summer home in Ocean City, hospital officials said yesterday.

Picked by Nixon as his running mate in 1968, Agnew established himself as a national political force by employing a colorful phraseology in criticizing anti-war protesters, liberals and the media, and by proclaiming himself spokesman for the "silent majority."

"Spiro Agnew had something few people in this city ever show: raw political courage," Nixon administration speech writer Pat Buchanan - later, a presidential candidate in his own right - said from Washington.

"At a time when the Establishment was craven in its pandering to rioters and demonstrators," Vice President-Agnew told the truth about both of them.

His most famous lines came in a 1970 speech, when he attacked the news media as "nattering nabobs of negativism" and "the hopeless, hysterical hypochondriacs of history."

Agnew's meteoric six-year rise from county official to Maryland governor to vice president came to

an abrupt halt in October 1973, when he pleaded no contest to a single count of income-tax evasion and resigned.

"I thought that some of the things he said during his lifetime were extreme and regrettable, but nonetheless, I mourn his passing and my sympathy is all with his family," said former Sen. George McGovern, defeated by Nixon in the 1972 presidential election.

In court, Agnew did not contest the government's charge that he "willfully" evaded paying \$13,551.47 in federal income taxes in 1967. Judge Walter Hoffman fined him \$10,000 and sentenced him to three years probation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nigeria police clash with Moslems; 10 dead
LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) - Anti-riot police clashed yesterday with thousands of Moslems protesting the arrest of their spiritual leader in the northern city of Kaduna, and up to 10 people were reported killed.

Soldiers took to the streets last night with orders to shoot rioters on sight. "I told you that we would crush any rebellion. We have succeeded in doing so," police chief Yakubu Shuaibu told reporters after security forces had secured the city.

Violence erupted when some 10,000 Moslems took to the streets to demand the release of Shi'ite fundamentalist leader Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky, who was arrested last Thursday and accused of making public statements that could incite religious clashes. The government has frequently accused the radical leader of fomenting violence between Moslems and Christians.

Karachi bomb blasts kill one

KARACHI, Pakistan (Reuters) - Three bomb blasts rocked the Pakistani port city of Karachi yesterday, killing one person and wounding at least three others, police said.

An explosion behind the Sindh Secretariat government offices in Karachi wounded four people and one of them, an unidentified man, later died in hospital, police said.

Bodies of Burundi archbishop and nun found

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (Reuters) - The bodies of Burundi's Catholic Archbishop Joachim Ruhuna and a nun have been found by soldiers in shallow graves, eight days after they were killed in an ambush by Hutu rebels, officials said yesterday.

Jean-Luc Ndizeye, spokesman for Tutsi military ruler Pierre Buyoya, said soldiers helped by local civilians found the bodies on Tuesday a few kilometers from the site of the September 9 attack in Gitongo district in central Burundi.

Rifkind welcomes Swiss moves on Nazi gold

BERN, Switzerland (AP) - British Foreign Minister Malcolm Rifkind yesterday welcomed a move by the Swiss government to order an investigation into Swiss wartime dealings with the Nazis.

The Swiss government confirmed Monday it would pass legislation this autumn to waive strict banking secrecy laws and permit an exhaustive search of wartime documents.

The investigation, which will likely take several years, would clear up "once and for all" speculation that looted Nazi gold may still be hidden in Swiss bank vaults, said Swiss Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti.

In Zurich, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said it would cooperate with any competent authority - such as a Bern-appointed commission of experts or Holocaust account panel - that wished to examine its records with regards to the fate of Nazi gold.

"We would cooperate with competent authorities when requests are made." BIS general-secretary Gunter Baer told Reuters in response to inquiries.

Basle-based BIS, central bank to the world's central banks, has been drawn into the current debate over the fate of Nazi gold because of its role in overseeing reparations from Germany to the Allied governments following World War I.

US senator Alfonse D'Amato, chairman of the Senate banking committee, recently wrote to BIS general manager Andrew Crockett, asking BIS to publish its records covering Nazi gold.

Latvian denies involvement in war crimes

TORONTO (AP) - An alleged Latvian war criminal took the stand to deny involvement in wartime atrocities.

"I never persecuted anybody," Konrad Kalejs said Tuesday as his deportation hearing stretched into its 37th day. "My whole career I was an army officer and the Latvian army never did things like that," he said.

Kalejs, 83, was deported from the United States three years ago after courts there found he had been a commander in the notorious Arajs Kommando, a Latvian squad that executed tens of thousands of Jews, Gypsies and communists.

Kalejs called that US appellate court ruling "the biggest lie in the world."

US nears approval of French abortion pill

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Food and Drug Administration said yesterday it is ready to approve the French abortion pill RU-486 for use in the United States but first will require more information about how it would be labeled.

The controversial drug, used widely in France and Britain, would give American women an alternative to surgical abortion, requiring only pills and three visits to a doctor's office for a drug-induced abortion. The drug is the focus of an emotional debate between abortion rights supporters and abortion opponents, who fear that it will make abortion even more readily available and argue that the drug's safety has not been sufficiently proven.

Superman, Lois Lane finally getting married

NEW YORK (AP) - Who says there's no such thing as a storybook romance? Only those who have forgotten about the rocky but persistent love affair between comic hero Superman and Lois Lane.

They're finally getting married - in print and on television - after a courtship of about 60 years, DC Comics executive editor, Mike Carlin said.

"They've decided it's the right thing to do," Carlin told the *New York Post* in Tuesday's editions.

The Man of Steel, also known as mild-mannered reporter Clark Kent, will say "I do" to his Daily Planet colleague in a special comic called "Superman: The Wedding Album."

The comic book goes on sale October 9, just three days after their television counterparts get hitched on the American TV show *Lois and Clark: The New Adventures of Superman*.

The couple has dated since 1938, when the first Superman comic book debuted. They got engaged six years ago.

US troops begin new Gulf deployment

FORT HOOD, Texas (Reuters) - The Army yesterday began deploying more than 3,000 troops to the Gulf as part of the Clinton administration's latest moves to guard against further military action by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

A first group of 219 soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division headed from Fort Hood army base in central Texas to Kuwait on a commercial jet after saying goodbye to their families. Defense officials said a C-5 military cargo plane would follow in the afternoon with 73 soldiers and key satellite equipment on board, and two flights early today would take 700 more troops.

Lt. Col. Randy Schoel said the staggered deployment of about 3,000 troops from two battalions at Fort Hood, the US Army's largest base, would be completed over two or three days, with each flight to Kuwait taking from 17 to 22 hours.

"They are ready, they are prepared and they are excited," said Maj. Mary Ann Cummings as the first group took off. She said almost all their heavy equipment was in place in Kuwait.

4 ONE-DAY TRIPS

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Thursday October 3
THE CRATERS OF THE NEGEV
They come from all over the world to see this most unusual phenomena which reveals the amazing strata that make up the Machtesh Ramon, the big crater and the small crater. We'll visit them all, as well as Mitzpe Ramon, the small town nearby. All will be explained at one of the wonders of the world.
NIS 170 including lunch
Tour guide: Oded Feder

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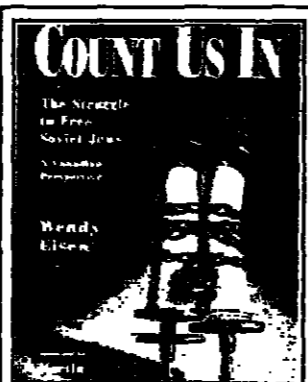
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Eternal romance

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

WHILE other designers are going in for classic, mannish pants suits or gaudy reconstructions of the flower-child era, Dorin Frankfurt remains eternally romantic.

Although she does have some flip-skirted minis in her new collection, she continues to favor maxi dresses with long sleeves and portrait necklines - styles which are sufficiently demure to convey innocence, yet sufficiently provocative to exude a sense of the feminine mystique.

Castro, which also features several maxis in its fall collection, puts more swagger than romance into its styles, utilizing positive/negative concepts in black and white plain and printed separates.

The little black dress, which seems to have survived the parade of changing trends, is this season the staple of every woman's personal wardrobe. It can look dramatically stunning on its own, or can be worn as a tunic top over pants or a maxi skirt. It takes on a more casual appearance under a textured cardigan or a ribbed poloneck sweater.

It's the ideal, any-occasion garment to be dressed up or dressed down at whim - and the best news of all is that it's available for as little as NIS 200.

Okay, you won't get the best cut or quality for that price - but given that the little black dress is going to be a central part of the minimal-



Creations by Dorin Frankfurt (far left and far right) emphasize the romance of the lengthened 'little black dress.' Castro (center) takes on a similar theme.

ist fall-winter uniform, you should also bear in mind that a famous designer dress for several thousand shekels is really a waste of money.

There's many a happy medium between NIS 200 and NIS 2,000, and it certainly doesn't hurt to go looking when you know that there

will be so many similarities between what you see coming in front of you and what you see trailing behind you.

Certainly for those who can't afford to pay NIS 2,000 and more for a dress, this totally egalitarian garb will be a great social equalizer

- so long as you don't make the mistake of dressing it up with cheap jewelry.

A simple black dress is a knock-out all on its own. And if it's long and romantic, it doesn't require any baubles to help it spell out the message.

'Smart' fridges may get the better of humans

MAGGIE FOX

SMART refrigerators that withhold unhealthy snacks from dieters may be the first of a new generation of intelligent machines that will tyrannize humanity, a British engineer warned recently.

Such a world - predicted in such science fiction works as Arthur C. Clarke's 2001 - A Space Odyssey - have been feared for generations, but it is now a real possibility, Roland Burns of the University of Plymouth in southwest England said.

"We, for the first time in the whole history of humankind, are able to make intelligent machines - machines that can reason, machines that can make decisions for themselves," he told the annual festival of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. "In the next decade we are going to see the growth of technology as we have never seen it before."

But the gradual takeover of the world will probably start in the kitchen rather than aboard a spacecraft orbiting Jupiter, Burns said.

He described washing machines that can decide how much detergent and what temperature water is needed to wash a load of clothes depending on its weight.

"I believe that the new generation of machines will be taking far more strategic decisions in all aspects of our lives," he told a news conference ahead of his presentation.

"I think it is more or less inevitable. We have this momentum in intelligent machine design which will be difficult to stop," Burns added. "Business

and science will drive this technology to the utmost."

The new technology may show up first in the home. "I think there's going to be a revolution there," he said, describing a "smart fridge" programmed to read bar codes on food products as they are loaded in. "Your home management system will know every item of food brought into the house," he said.

Plugged into both your bank and the computer at the local supermarket, it will order and pay for food as it is needed. "It will detect the sort of things that you eat and the sort of things you enjoy eating, making very intelligent, very reasoned, very non-emotional decisions on our behalf," he said.

But reasoned decisions may not be benevolent, he added. "They are very cold, calculating devices."

Instead of being a "guardian angel whom you can trust," it could become a tyrant, withholding chocolate bars from dieters, and perhaps even deciding to go so far as deciding that humans are inefficient and thus locking its owner out of the house.

"The worst that could happen is that there will be a race of machines that we will be subservient to."

New technology that allows computers to think for themselves, rather than following clumsy line-by-line commands, will make the difference.

"In the past these machines have behaved in a way we programmed them to," Burns said. "They are now capable of learning."

Burns himself is working on pro-



NEIR KONNEN '96

thetic limbs and described an artificial arm that can "decide" which finger a user wants to move based on nerve signals. It uses neural networks - the newest generation of computer design that allows the machines to work in three dimensions as the brain does, instead of in a single line. This makes computers much faster and more efficient. "It can learn from its environment and it can learn from its past."

Many of the advances were being made by military engineers, designing

aircraft that can be guided only with the help of an on-board computer.

But such inventions could easily translate into civilian life. Automobiles that navigate using satellite guidance, that can use microprocessors to avoid accidents, will be among the first.

"The intelligent machine," he said, "will coolly and calmly collect all the data microsecond by microsecond, and make all the necessary adjustments to steering and brakes."

(Reuter)

Not necessarily a step in the right direction

CAVEAT EMPTORI!
RUTHIE BLUM

LESS than a year ago, the Knesset passed an amendment to the National Insurance Law of 1955 finally recognizing the right of housewives to receive a pension at age 60. Until the amendment was put into effect, everyone over 18 was insured for an old-age pension... except for housewives, whom the law defined as "married women tending to their households," and not working [sic]. Married men, on the other hand, whether working or not were insured in any case.

While some might consider this small step for womankind a large stride in the right direction, one reader presented a complaint to this column which contributes an interesting twist to the question of equality between men and women within the work-force and without.

Mrs. L., a wife and mother, has a full-time government job. Her unemployed husband keeps house and takes care of their children. Mrs. L.'s National Insurance payments are deducted automatically from her salary, as are her health fund (Kupat Holim) fees. Nevertheless, her husband is required by law to pay separately for his National Insurance, albeit a significantly lower amount than he would have to pay if he were employed - as well as additional Kupat Holim dues.

"If the situation were reversed," complained the frustrated Mrs. L., "I wouldn't have to pay National Insurance, and I would be covered by my husband's Kupat Holim dues." Mrs. L. is interested in fighting to change the law. She feels ill equipped to do so on her own. Avraham Mena, Director of the NII Insurance Department, confirmed the above facts, but stressed that it is the

Knesset, and not the NII, which is responsible. "During Ora Namin's term as social affairs minister, a committee was formed to lobby for legislation to treat housewives as [unemployed] men [whereby they'd have to pay NII, but at least would be completely insured]," he said. The end result, according to Mena, was the above amendment. Mrs. L. believes there must be other couples in a similar situation. She just doesn't know how to go about finding them.

Na'amah Legal Department Director Adv. Etti Pipel considered my account of Mrs. L.'s predicament to be of interest. "We handle all kinds of cases relevant to women, within the family structure and the work-force," she said, describing a case she is dealing with currently. "A recent amendment to the law which enables mothers of young children to have a shorter work day now allows for husbands and wives to decide among themselves whether the father or the mother will take advantage of the 'parent' privileges [including a certain number of 'sick days' for children's illnesses]," she explained.

"So, when we were approached by a male government employee whose attempt to exercise this right was denied by his employer, we decided to take his case to court."

If you are interested in joining Mrs. L. in her struggle, or in other related injustices, contact: Adv. Etti Pipel, Na'amah, 7 Esther Hamalka Street, Tel Aviv 64381; Tel. (03) 523-1286.

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Missed opportunity

THE Brodet Committee, which on Tuesday introduced its suggested structural reforms of the capital markets, has striven with great professionalism toward the desirable goal of promoting long-term savings, but shot itself in the foot by proposing to tax short-term savings plans.

In typical Israeli fashion, this committee was not assembled and assigned its important task until a three-year-old crisis in Tel Aviv's once-buoyant financial markets came to a boiling point - highlighted by a massive flight from provident funds and government bonds - and finally knocked officials out of their complacency.

Consequently, the committee was compelled to work under an unnecessarily tight two-month deadline and against the relatively coincidental backdrop of the public flocking en masse to the banks' assorted short-term savings plans.

Yet while these plans are indeed lucrative right now, that is only because the Bank of Israel has been forced into a tight-money policy, due to irresponsible politicians who spent too much public money, and a Treasury that failed miserably in forecasting internal revenues.

The central bank's high interest rates dictate the price of credit across the economy, and that includes short-term savings. Eventually, in the way of all economic cycles, interest rates will drop and with them the attractiveness of short-term savings plans.

Strategically speaking, then, the committee - whose members stressed time and again their intention to impact on the markets mainly in the long term - could have allowed Mr. Average Israeli to remain for now with what he perceives as a financial anchor.

More importantly, the proposed taxation of short-term savings is likely to emerge as a major tactical fiasco. For one thing, it stands a very slim chance of getting past the wall-to-wall political opposition it has inevitably generated. No one, until now, has managed to unite on any issue the likes of Meretz chairman, MK Yossi Sarid, Prime Minister's Office director-general Avigdor Lieberman, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frejkel, and Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz - all of whom have strongly criticized the report.

Moreover, the prospect of taxation being perceived as the bottom line of the report not only threatens Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's popularity, but in fact might further damage the public's trust in the financial system.

The basic problem with the Israeli investor is not only one of habit, but also of availability and mentality. Historically short of lucrative, long-term financial instruments - whether in the form of freely negotiable long-term bonds, amply supplied blue-chip stocks, or freely

accessible foreign securities - Israelis need to be coaxed, not whipped, into changing their savings and investment habits.

Unfortunately, the proposals fail - mainly because of the committee's narrowly defined task - to make these instruments available and thus herald a long overdue revolution.

The committee's key proposals revolve around the theme of taxation: To offer provident-fund tax breaks only when those are redeemed at retirement age; to reduce taxes on bond gains; to increase tax exemptions on pensions; to keep training funds tax exempt only if those remain dormant for 10 years or longer; to gradually reduce from 35% to 20% the tax imposed on provident funds' capital gains abroad; and a lowering of dividend taxes from 25% to 15%.

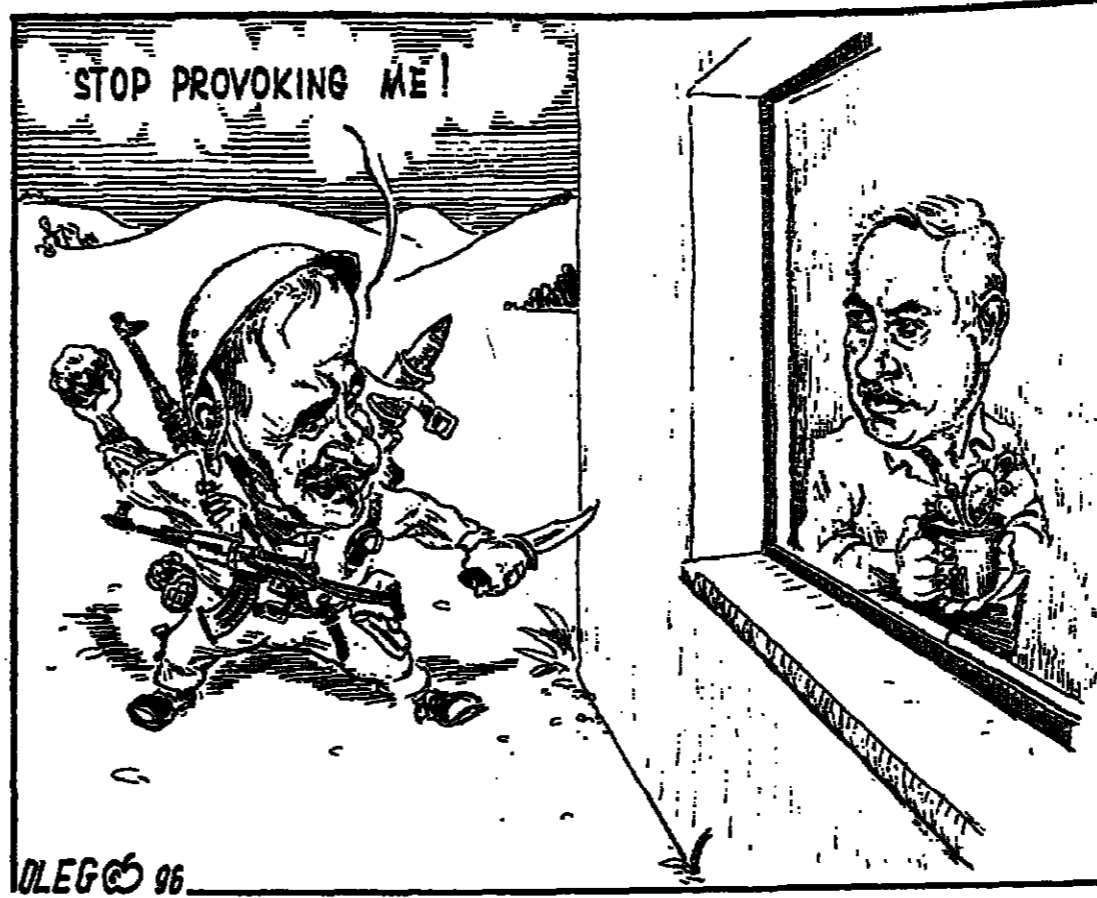
Yet Israeli investors are not likely to be lured into funneling sizable funds into long-term savings, pension, or insurance plans just because those are exempt from taxes levied on short-term plans. To truly re-invent Israel's capital markets, some serious macro-economic changes must first take place.

A thorough privatization drive, through public share offerings, would dramatically expand and diversify the supply of blue-chip stocks in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. Complete foreign-currency liberalization would expose Israelis to foreign long-term investment instruments, of the sort which comprise the backbone of developed economies in the West. And long-term, undesignated government bonds would be far simpler to understand for the average investor than a plethora of tax menus.

The problem, however, is that making these available demands from the government a type of economic heroism which it clearly lacks.

Massive privatization demands confronting such monopolistic monstrosities as the Israel Electric Corporation, Egged and El Al, none of which appear on the immediate horizon. A full removal of all foreign-currency restrictions, for a government which runs a current-account deficit in excess of \$5 billion, can indeed result in the type of crash experienced by Mexico last year. And the government did not even allow the Brodet Committee to deal with the issue of undesignated bonds - which are long-term loans extended by the public to its leaders. Apparently, officials are scared stiff of this instrument, which is notorious for its brutal punishment of fiscally irresponsible governments.

Against this grim backdrop, it is no wonder that the Brodet Committee concentrated on merely bettering the position of that famous visible hand that is already so well tucked into the Israeli middle class's pockets.



Kremlin's lust for oil

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

THE thunderous roar of US missiles raining down earlier this month on military targets in southern Iraq provoked hostility among most European and Middle-Eastern Arab countries. In sharp contrast, the action taken by Bill Clinton was warmly welcomed by Britain and Israel.

This positive attitude was underlined by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who told this column minutes before seeing the American president just over a fortnight ago that he had emphasized to his host the dangers to peace in the Middle East posed by Iran, Iraq and other countries. In all probability Netanyahu singled out Russia, which has reverted to the policies of the former Soviet Union and is aiming to become a dominant power in the Middle East once again. The Russian bear has already hugged Iran in a honeyed embrace by building a nuclear reactor for the mullahs of Teheran. It is also working hard to take Syria back into its bosom, holding out modern arms for Damascus as bait.

But Iraq is clearly the prize maiden being wooed by Moscow. A high-powered Russian delegation just happened to be in Baghdad while cruise missiles were demolishing Saddam Hussein's military installations in southern Iraq.

This Russian cozying up to the Iraqi despot marked the culmination of five years' work by the Kremlin to become Baghdad's chief trading partner. Much to the chagrin of France, Saddam's other persistent suitor, it was the Russian Romeo in the shape of a bulky middle-aged Kremlin official who won Baghdad's heart.

What goodies did Moscow offer? The Russians (with the French coming a close second) have gone all out to get the UN to lift the embargo on sales of Iraqi oil to world markets. And it was Moscow who dreamed up the humanitarian-sounding formula of allowing Iraq to sell oil "to buy food for its hungry civilians."

Money is fungible, and it hardly needed a wink and a nudge to suggest that raw materials for making the latest weapons of mass destruction would soon find their way into the hands of Saddam Hussein's generals. In exchange, Iraq would sell much, if not all, of its oil to Moscow by means of

long-term contracts. The French were ready to match these offers. But they didn't count on the chess-playerlike skills of the Kremlin boys. These grandmasters added a tidbit: the generous suggestion that \$1.1b. of a larger debt owed them by Saddam could be paid off in installments

to the surface. The Russians had been kept totally in the dark about Clinton's decision to use force against Iraq. To make matters worse, they learned that some US allies had been told in advance about the tough Washington action.

The Russians promptly returned to Moscow. But their long-term goals hadn't been changed by Saddam's unpredictable behavior, and their pique was soon replaced by practical considerations of how to handle the situation. First the Russians protested the American action strongly. Then Riyadh Qeisi, a leading Iraqi official, was invited to Moscow earlier this week to plan a joint damage-control operation. Moscow let it be known that it was doing all it could to persuade Saddam to calm matters by toning down his beligerence.

"We are diffusing tension," was the cry from Moscow.

The Russians also revealed that the Iraqis would fire no more missiles against US aircraft. They would also refrain from entering the no-fly zone, despite Saddam's earlier bluster to the contrary.

These soothing words notwithstanding, the Americans, who had been fooled by Saddam in 1991, insisted on sending several thousand troops to Kuwait as a warning that they had no intention of being caught twice by Iraqi trickery.

Though the situation isn't as dangerous as it was when the Soviet Union was a superpower, the Israeli government is aware of the problem of an increasingly hostile Russia as the Kremlin woos Mideastern Arab states primarily for their oil. Israel will have to learn to handle the way the Kremlin operates.

Among our large population of Russians immigrants there is surely a vast store of knowledge of how Moscow operates, and knowledge of the personalities involved.

The prime minister would be wise to set up one or more think tanks of experts on Russia. It could come up with some urgently needed and constructive ideas on how to cope with the fluid situation in the Kremlin.

The writers are authors of The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE SOCIETY OF ST. YVES

Sir, - Fortunately, Moshe Kohn's column, "Wreckers of our own," and Esther Hecht's profile of Lynda Brayer, executive legal director of the Society of St. Yves, the Jerusalem-based Catholic Legal Resource Center for Human Rights, ran in the same issue of The Jerusalem Post, September 6. Kohn reviewed Brayer's broadside, *Decimation of Christians in Occupied Territories of Palestine*, revealing it has no information relating to the "decimation" charge. Kohn also reports that a Catholic official in Jerusalem told him St. Yves has no official Church link or aegis.

Brayer told Hecht that in May 1990, she decided to "demand that the Church set up a legal-aid service." Hecht doesn't touch on the specific relationship of the Church to Brayer's activities. Was St. Yves founded by Brayer? How is St. Yves governed?

Hecht reports St. Yves is funded by Catholic organizations and private individuals and is housed in the Notre Dame compound. That site identifies it with the Church and makes it the recipient of Church-sourced subsidization. I have been told the Taatur Institute, the Church's prestigious interfaith dialogue center, distributed *Decimation of Christians* to visitors from Cleveland, Ohio. Such circulation enhances St. Yves stature and identifies it with the Church. St. Yves flourishes conspicuously in the Catholic institutional garden. It never suggests it lacks Church "link or aegis."

Evidently Hecht was unaware of the *Decimation*... broadside. Hecht

was alert to Brayer's publicly equating Zionism with colonialism and Israel with apartheid South Africa. Hecht writes: "It's no surprise that Brayer has right-wing critics." Does one have to be "right-wing" to be critical of Brayer? Strangely, Hecht didn't seek Catholic views on St. Yves's anti-Israel stance. Such opinions matter.

Hecht relates Brayer emphasizing the "Jewish" nature of the Catholic mass - the sacrament of transubstantiation, "the ritual handwashing, the prayer over the wine and matza" which turns the bread and wine into Jesus' body and blood. Jews remember the times that sacrament was interpreted to support deadly riots against Jews or allegedly mutilating Jesus' body by breaking the sacred bread (wafer), a version of the crucifixion. Jews also remember the blood libel that Jews murdered Christian children to get blood required for making matza.

Today's Church strives to get away from such notions which endanger Jews and misstate Christianity. But neophyte Brayer projects a massive blood libel with the charge of *Decimation of Christians in the Occupied Territories of Palestine*. Brayer may perform some good at St. Yves, but she harnesses the good to promote evil. That's more despicable than evil unassisted by good.

What Lynda Brayer does under these circumstances is secondary to what the Catholic Church does in light of its overarching responsibilities.

Please let's hear from the Church. TESSA L. AUMAN
Moshav Bnei Darom.

RECIPROCITY

Sir, - Foreign Minister David Levy wanted the European Union to comply with the Israeli-Palestinian agreement and not visit Orient House (The Jerusalem Post, September 6). If, as Levy says, the Palestinian Authority agreed not to conduct such business in Jerusalem, why does the PA accept and even invite such visits?

Evidently, the prime minister's concept of reciprocity in the peace

process needs tuning up. The closing of three hardly known PA offices in return for the meeting with the prime minister so desperately sought by Chairman Arafat hardly qualifies as balanced reciprocity. At a minimum, Orient House functions in violation of the Oslo agreements should have been terminated.

JOSEPH LERNER
Jerusalem.

RIGHT

Sir, - I wish to voice my appreciation to Uri Avnery for writing the excellent commentary, "An invitation to terror" (August 23) and to the Post for publishing it. It takes a lot of courage to write and publish such articles nowadays.

Uri Avnery was right in the past. He is now right again - time will tell. I wish he were not. H. SAMTER
Haifa.

FOREIGN WORKERS

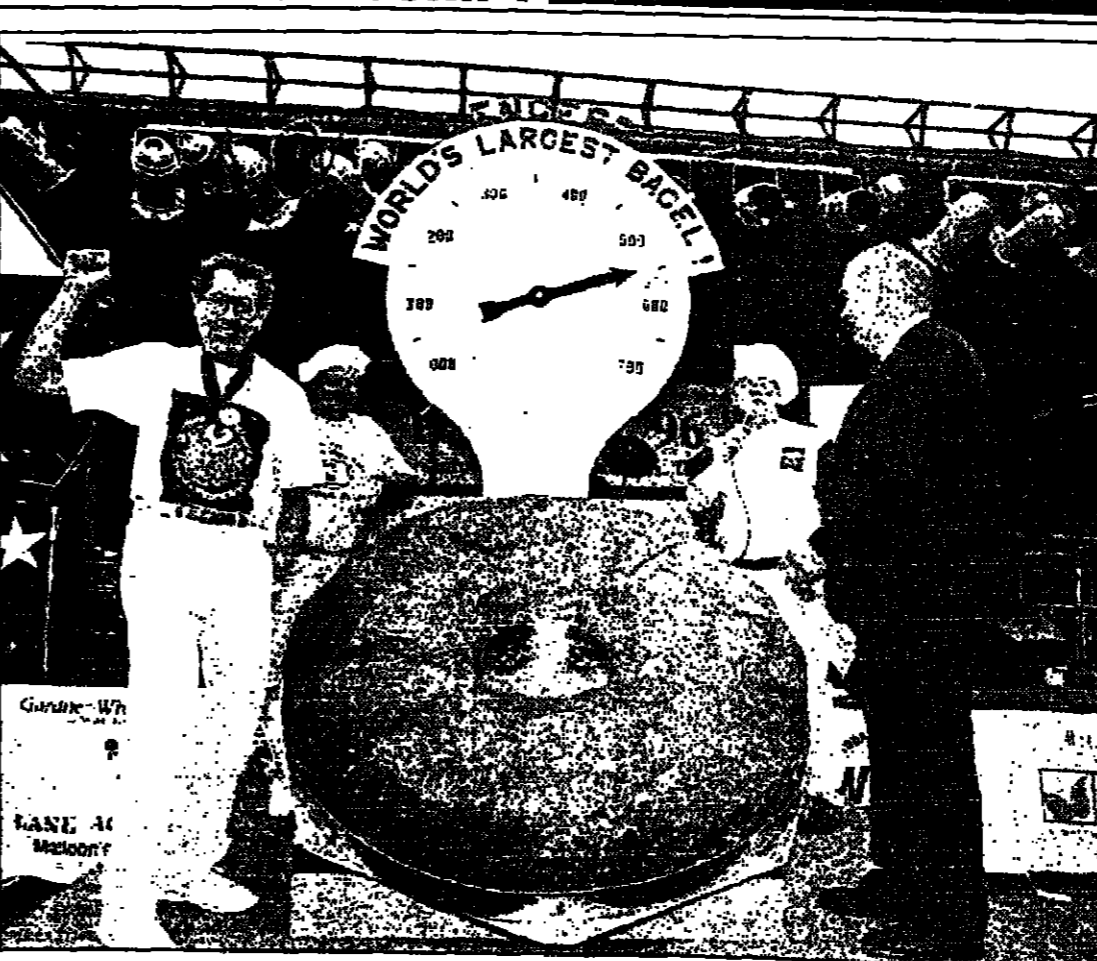
Sir, - "There is no doubt... every resident of Tel Aviv who comes into contact with foreign workers is likely to face health risks." Your paper quotes the Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai as writing to the health minister ("Cabinet to examine plan to deport up to 100,000 foreign workers," August 23).

If the minister actually made that statement, then unfortunately he has exposed his ignorance or even near-illiteracy. Being foreigners does not mean that these workers are carrying infectious or contagious diseases. In any case, they have not been working in isolation; for many years, these foreign workers have been working with Israelis in their homes and work places. They sit with them in public buses and mix with them in shopping areas. Some are married to Israelis and have children with them. Has the minister ever heard that there has been some health problem in Israel which has been traced to these foreign workers? Do they pose any more health hazards than the Palestinians the minister intends to replace them with?

I could not believe my eyes when I read the statement. Has the minister been misquoted? I wish it were so. Otherwise, if he decides to expel the illegal foreign workers, he should go right ahead and do just that instead of insulting and dehumanizing them. They are not any different from the average ordinary Israelis who make up the core of the Israeli population.

KELVIN ACKERMAN
Tel Aviv.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



The world's largest bagel weighs in at 563 pounds, to the delight of workers from Kraft Lender's Bagel Bakery. It is gratifying to note that New York cannot lay claim to this monster creation, nor to the world's largest bagel bakery that produced it: both come from little-known Mattoon, Illinois. Kraft Lender's produces more than one billion bagels per year. This one looks like it'll have to sit on the shelf for a while, until somebody comes up with the world's largest piece of lox to fill it with. (AP)

Nothing to lose

LARRY DERFNER

NOT that he would care, but I'm throwing my support to Ehud Barak for leader of the Labor Party.

I don't understand what all this grumbling in the leftward precincts of the party is about. Barak isn't "ideological" enough? He's too "vague" about his policies? This isn't a problem, not now at least.

From everything he's said, Barak seems about two millimeters to the right of Shimon Peres and Haim Ramon. The only important difference between Barak and his rivals is that he can beat Bibi Netanyahu, and they can't.

But we're talking about the Labor Party here, so I can only hope that come Primary Day, Barak's electability will not be held against him.

Having done my bit for our Great White Hope, I'd like to now offer a suggestion on how to get the party out of its drift, pull it out of the doldrums, fire it up, and maybe possibly set it on course to win the next election. (As a declared FOB - Friend of Barak or Foe of Bibi - I've got my rights.)

What's needed is a new approach to the haredim. Peres has been kissing up to them for so long, and look where it got him. This last time out they gave at least 100 percent of their votes to Bibi.

The haredim don't like Labor. They don't like anybody or any party that smacks of the left. They positively hate the people in Meretz, and if Barak thinks he can ditch Meretz, let him try to imagine the signing of the Oslo accords if Shas, Agudat Yisrael and one of the little right-wing parties had been shoring up the last government.

For a while now Barak has been doing the traditional Labor establishment thing, buddying up to the haredi rabbi.

I've got what I think is a better idea: Tell them off. Tell them what Labor and I'm sure, a great majority of Israelis think of them and their followers these days.

THESE pious Jews have finally gone too far. Between the riots on Bar-Ilan Street, the holy war on the Supreme Court and the death threats against its president, masses of middle-of-the-road Israelis, "floating voter" types have become terminally fed up with them.

I'm supporting Barak for Labor Party leader. And as for his campaign...

Israelis were led to believe that the direct election of the prime minister would diminish haredi political power. This was the whole impetus behind the reform: it was way about 600,000 people signed petitions in favor of it.

Things didn't exactly turn out that way. The various Councils of Torah Sages, the dedicated ranks of Habad, and Rabbi Yitzhak Kadourie's amulets, blessings and curses swung quite a bit of influence on the direct election of Bibi Netanyahu.

A whole lot of voters, on all points of the political spectrum, are looking for somebody to roll the haredim back. They know the prime minister isn't about to do it. So the field is open to Ehud Barak. Since he can't win the hardt vote, let him go after what may be the even bigger anti-haredi vote.

Admittedly, he'd be opening himself and Labor to charges of hypocrisy, of sour grapes. The party would have done anything for Kadourie to pat Peres's head instead of Netanyahu's, and Peres was by no means above wangling the blessing of the Baba Baruch.

But Barak still has plenty of time for an about-face. He can put all of Labor's "stinking maneuvers" behind him. Let Barak make it clear that he considers the haredim a hostile force, even if he doesn't put it that bluntly.

He needs, however, to offer more than declarations; he needs to put his money where his mouth is. So let him vow that a Barak government will pass a law requiring all Israelis, including haredim, including Israeli Arabs, to do military or civilian national service.

I think it's a vote-getter. It would also rouse the troops who've been shell-shocked since the election defeat and put some idealism and passion into the Barak campaign.

One thing's for sure about this strategy for dealing with the haredim: It can't fail any worse than the one Labor tried last time.

The writer is a journalist who lives in Tel Aviv.

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Arab-Americans cry foul at Disney

TOM TUGEND

ARAB-Americans picketed outside the Walt Disney studio in Burbank recently, protesting alleged Arab-bashing and defamatory stereotypes in two Disney films.

A spokesman for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), which organized the protest, said in a phone interview that he did not believe that there was a "Jewish cabal" in Hollywood orchestrating negative portrayals of Arabs. However, said Don Bustany of the ADC, he "presumed" that the three top Disney executives - Michael Eisner, Michael Ovitz and Joe Roth, were Jewish.

"I don't believe that the Disney executive board sits down to figure out how to get the Arabs," said Bustany. "However, there may be a tacit agreement among some supporters of Israel, who believe that by vilifying Arabs they help Israel."

Bustany did not call for a boycott of Disney films, as did conservative Protestant groups, which recently objected to the studio granting health-insurance benefits to partners of gay employees. The protesters' ire was directed against two recent Disney productions, *Kazaam*, starring Shaquille O'Neal, which includes various Arab villains. Among them is a black marketer named Malik, which is Arabic for "owner," Bustany said.

Last year's *Father of the Bride, Part II* introduced a nasty, sharp-dealing neighbor, named Habib, a character not found in the book on which the film was based.

ADC officials also charged that Disney executives had broken an oral promise to consult with the organization in the portrayal of Arab and Moslem characters. The alleged promise was given three years ago, following a flap over lyrics in the animated feature *Aladdin*.

The offending lyrics were changed when the film was released on home video. In the *Aladdin* controversy, the (Jewish) Anti-Defamation League publicly backed the Arab position, but not



MEIR RONEN © 96

this time. "We did think that the lyrics in *Aladdin* were problematic, and said so," confirmed David Lehrer, regional ADL director. "But the current protest looks like a broad-scale attack on Disney and the movie industry, and we will not participate in it."

However, Sanford Weiner, a veteran Jewish Federation and American Jewish Congress lay leader, said he fully agreed with the protesters' dismay at the portrayal of "Habib" in *Father of the Bride*. "I saw the film in a sneak preview and was outraged," said Weiner. "It was a despicable portrayal.

If the character had been labeled as Jewish, there would have been protests all over the place." John Dreyer, Disney's head of corporate relations, declined to comment on any aspect of the controversy. Meanwhile, Salaam Al-Marayati, director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council in Los Angeles, is taking a different tack to get the attention of the film industry. He is organizing a September 13 conference for Hollywood marketing executives to give them "a more sophisticated understanding of Arab culture, which is a subset of the Moslem world," he said.

EU applicants may have long wait

JONATHAN CLAYTON

LIKE eager graduates looking for careers, countries from central and eastern Europe hoping to win admission into the European Union have filled in the application papers on time. Now, they face a long - and, for many, an agonizing - wait while Brussels bureaucrats weigh up their suitability to join a club which officially wants them in, but privately is terrified of the effects the newcomers may have on the existing set-up.

"Recently, hard facts have dawned on both sides," said one senior EU official. "Enlargement is not for tomorrow. It is going to be a long, hard process, but that is not to say we are no longer committed to it." Ten countries from former communist Europe - Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovenia - are all waiting outside the most successful political and trade group ever seen in Europe.

In the euphoria that greeted the fall of communism on the continent seven years ago, the EU's existing member states - most also members of the NATO military alliance that won the Cold War - held out the prospect of quick membership. All the new democracies had to do, they suggested, was embrace pluralism, adopt market reforms, and impose political control of their once-dominant military. The reward would be a single market with a free flow of goods, people, capital and services stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea - a global show-case for successful free-market democracy.

But as so often in EU affairs, diplomats say harsh realities are now acting as a brake on lofty idealism. Pessimists fear the whole project could be delayed for years, and even the optimists no longer believe in a turn-of-the-century target date.

At the root of the problem is money, most often the cause of EU woes. The prospective new members are poorer than even the EU's poorest countries - Greece, Ireland and Portugal - and much poorer, than those countries were when they joined. Worse still, the applicant states are still overwhelmingly agrarian economies which could torpedo attempts to keep the EU's \$52-billion farm budget under control. Unless the EU's system of payments to poor regions and subsidies to farmers is reformed, enlargement could force an unacceptably large increase on the budget - with some estimates suggesting as high as 60 percent.

With internal EU relations already strained by moves to create a single currency by 1999, diplomats and analysts say a new bout of reform negotiations could take months to bear fruit. EU member states have already begun an inter-governmental conference (IGC) to plot the shape of a union that could one day include 30 states. Cyprus and Malta are also waiting in the wings and even Turkey has not yet lost all hope of membership. "The IGC could last months and membership negotiations years, even before the laborious ratification process gets underway," said one EU diplomat who follows the enlargement issue. Officials say even the most ardent supporters now accept the most likely batch of new members - Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic - are unlikely to gain admission before 2002.

With Brussels' officials returning from their summer break, the issue is likely to dominate EU politics. The first job will be to analyze boxes and boxes of replies to questions submitted to all 10 governments earlier this year by the European Commission to try to gauge each country's ability to meet the rights and obligations of membership. When that process is complete, the Commission will submit "opinions" to the current 15 EU states on which applicants are most likely to be able to make the grade and a recommendation on whether to open negotiations. (Reuter)

Bridging the Northumberland Straits

CHANGE is coming in a big way to Charlottetown on picturesque Prince Edward Island. One of the world's longest bridges is rising, span-by-spectacular span, to connect Canada's smallest province with the mainland.

The 13-kilometer bridge is more than half completed and is expected to open according to schedule next June, replacing a ferry service that has linked the island to New Brunswick since 1832.

Sixty percent of island voters endorsed construction of a bridge in a 1988 referendum, and recent surveys suggest the approval rating has risen. But even among its proponents, the bridge rouses mixed emotions for those who fear the province's "island way of life" may never be quite the same.

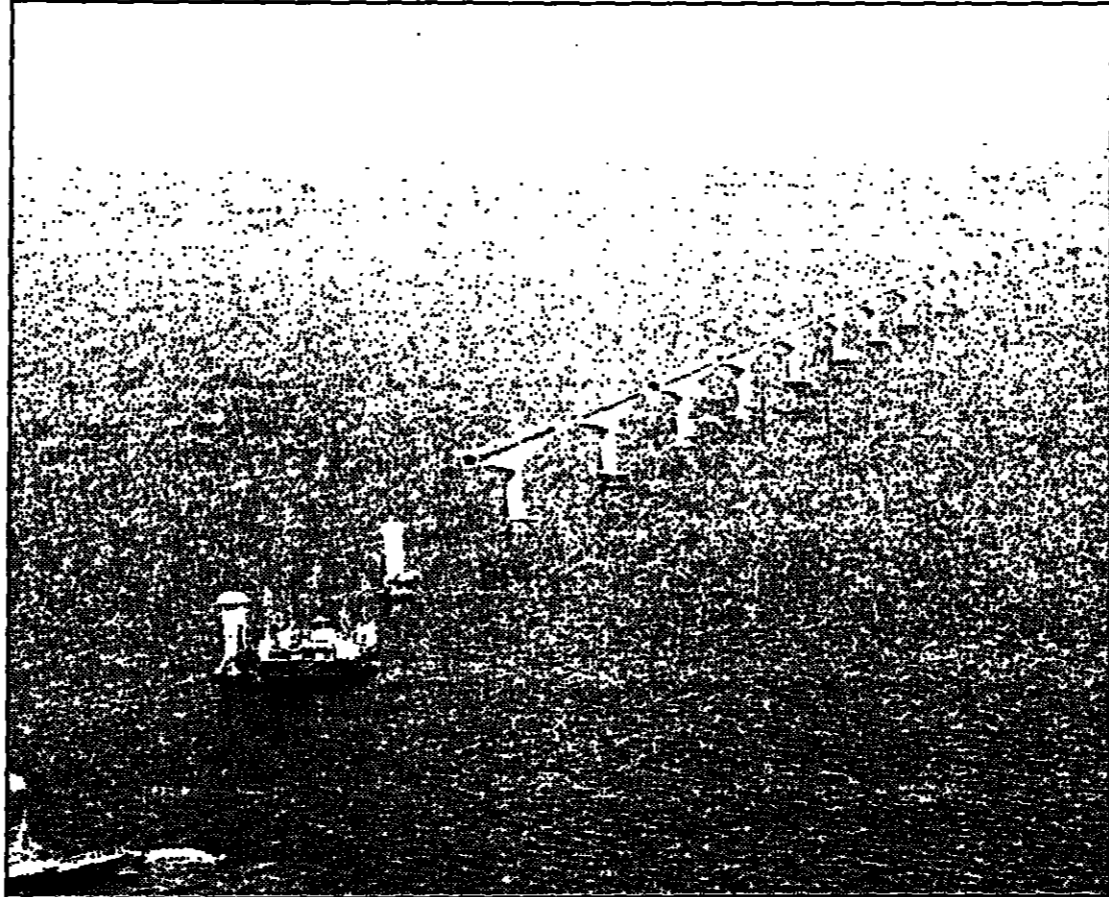
"Things will become faster-paced, and it will bring a lot more industry and business," said Patricia Bradley, saleswoman at a Charlottetown gift shop that sells mugs bearing pictures of the bridge. "There will be a lot more work here, maybe, but I really

think there will be a lot more crime," she added. "I don't want it changed. It's fine the way it is."

By Canadian standards, Prince Edward Island is almost microscopic, with 135,000 residents. Charlottetown, the capital and biggest municipality, has 16,000 residents.

The scenery resembles the prettiest of New England - unspoiled seacoast, lobstermen fishing offshore, colorful farms on verdant rolling hills. Stringent regulations ban billboards on most highways and limit coastal development. There is little crime, no slums. But the 14.5 percent jobless rate is the second-highest in Canada, mainly because the dominant industries - agriculture, tourism and fishing - are seasonal.

Government officials hope the bridge over the Northumberland Strait will boost the number of tourists to more than 1 million annually, up from the current 800,000, and inspire a wave of business investment as transport becomes cheaper and easier. Tourism Minister Robert



The bridge to Prince Edward Island takes shape. (AP)

Morrissey says the projected tourist boom can be accommodated without building a lot of new hotels. He expects a proliferation

of bed-and-breakfasts, and is looking for ways to stretch the island's traditional two-month vacation season into June and September.

New England, in the northeast United States, is a key market, he said, just an eight-hour or so drive once the ferries, and the

threat of long waits, are gone. "The size of the strait was viewed as something you couldn't overcome," Morrissey said. "But now the bridge dwarfs everything. The strait looks like a little puddle."

The drive over the bridge will take about 15 minutes, compared to 45 minutes on the ferry. But islanders say that comparison understates the convenience the bridge will bring - in peak summer season, backed-up motorists often wait hours to get their vehicles aboard a ferry.

THE BRIDGE consists of 44 spans, each with a main concrete girder 192 meters long. A towering, Dutch-built heavy-lifting vessel has been carrying the 7,500-ton girders from an on-shore construction site and hoisting them delicately atop huge piers rising from bases below the strait.

The water depth is roughly 30 meters, and the highest span is 60 meters, high enough for the world's largest cruise ships to pass underneath.

At the expense of a spectacular view, the two-lane bridge will have solid side walls to help keep drivers from being unweaved by the height. The bridge is being curved to minimize the potentially hypnotic effect of a long straight-away.

But the paramount concern of the designers was the mass of ice

that flows through the strait each winter. Fishermen and ecologists warned that the ice could damage the bridge or get jammed up by the piers.

The bridge builders - a consortium of French, Dutch and Canadian companies - solicited advice from some of the world's top ice experts and designed huge cone-shaped shields to protect the piers. Those in place last winter proved effective - ice chunks rose up after hitting them, then crumbled and kept moving.

"There hasn't been one surprise since the bridge started," Morrissey said. "It's been amazing... People are so used to big projects screwing up."

There is, however, still some opposition. Wilma Smith, who works at a crafts shop in Charlottetown, said some of her peers in the nearing-retirement generation are against the bridge so bitterly they vow never to travel on it. "They think it's dangerous to drive across the strait," she said. "They think it will bring evil."

But she concedes that the bridge will benefit islanders, like her grandson, who must make regular trips to Halifax, Nova Scotia, for specialized medical treatment unavailable on the island.

"We're fabulously lucky to have this bridge," said Peter Toombs. "It's a billion-dollar bridge for 100,000 people. It's frigg'n' foolish... but we'll take it and run." (AP)

Should I tell her?

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



DEAR Ruthie, An acquaintance of mine is marrying a man who was previously married. She is already talking about planning a family. I happen to know that this man underwent a vasectomy (I am friendly with his first wife, and that's how I know). He obviously has not divulged this information to his fiancée. We are not especially close. Should I tell her?

Vasectomy Vague
Ra'anana

Dear VV, Before even considering divulging this information, you must get permission from the woman who passed it on to you. It is her intimacy with this man - and not yours - which led to your knowledge of the situation. Revealing this to his new fiancée, then, would be a violation of your friend's confidence in you. But even if she gives you permission to "spread the word," you must consider the consequences of doing so. Since you are "not especially close" to the bride-to-be, your interference might be regarded by her as an act of aggression, rather than one of concern.

Furthermore, her talk about planning a family does not necessarily indicate ignorance about her future husband's vasectomy. These days, "planning a family" can be done in a variety of unconventional ways.

Finally, "outside" help is only effective for those who are internally ready to seek and utilize it. A

woman kept in the dark about so relevant an issue may not be ready to face certain things about the man in her life - particularly his dishonesty.

Dear Ruthie, One of my closest friends is unhappy in her job. Recently, I began working for a firm with great opportunities. My friend is very interested in one position there which I could be instrumental in landing for her.

My problem is that although she is one of the most capable, intelligent, and even industrious people I know, I have serious reservations about recommending her for the following reason: She never sticks to anything for more than about six months.

I realize this could be because she hasn't found the "right" job (i.e. when she does, she will not be so fickle). But I am hesitant, because her record does not bode well.

I have promised to "see what I can do." What should I do?

Flipping a Coin over a Fickle Friend
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Friend Floundering, Ask yourself two questions: (1) whether another factor involved here has to do with potential professional envy, and (2) whether your familiarity with her "record" is a hindrance to your judgment. If fear of competition is lurking, only soul searching can help you decide. If, however, it is your friend's past employment history which worries you, why not recommend her, and then let whoever does the actual hiring grill her on this subject, without your interference?

GAME TIME

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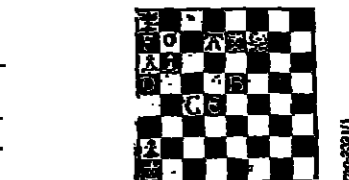
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Thursday, September 19, 1996

FDA ruling on Teva drug due tonight

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

A US Food and Drug Administration panel is expected to meet today to discuss Teva Pharmaceutical Industries' petition for approval of its potentially lucrative multiple sclerosis drug, Copaxone.

The administration's Peripheral and Central Nervous System Drugs Advisory Panel may decide to approve the drug or request that Teva submit further data, but an outright denial seems unlikely, analysts said.

"The meeting might cause a temporary disappointment or require a temporary adjustment, but it won't change the long-term prospect for the company," said Zeev Holtzman, CEO of Giza Venture Capital and Investment Funds, the Israeli representative of Alex. Brown & Sons. He added that past postponements and the release of competitive products point to Copaxone's eventual approval.

In late July, the FDA unexpectedly reneged on its decision to let Teva bypass a typical stage in the review procedure.

This caused a steady decline in the company's stock until the middle of August, when investors once again began to grow optimistic that Copaxone, the company's first original drug, will receive FDA approval.

Since the stock hit its yearly low of \$31.5 on August 14, it has steadily risen, closing at \$43.625 in trading yesterday.

Teva said that Copaxone helps reduce the number and frequency of attacks that MS sufferers experience. Analysts have estimated that the US market for an effective MS treatment could total \$1 billion a year.

Capital-market reform ideas face fierce political opposition

DAVID HARRIS

MKs from both coalition and opposition parties expressed doubts yesterday about the likely implementation of much of the Brodet Committee's report on structural changes in the capital markets, which were published on Tuesday.

Certain proposals have been opposed by Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, Prime Minister's Office director-general Avigdor Lieberman and by many Likud MKs, including Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, Knesset Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) said yesterday.

"In the end the report will achieve close to zero," said former finance minister Avraham Shohat (Labor). While supporting the recommendations of the document, he complained by "professionals."

Shohat said the opposition to a variety of proposals from Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Tichon and Likud Finance Committee group leader Silvan Shalom will radically lessen the impact of the reforms.

Ravitz, for his part, did not join the report's opponents, and in fact leveled particular criticism against Tichon for making his comments while on an official visit to China.

Ravitz said personally he is not disappointed by the contents of the Brodet committee report, but rather by what was omitted.

should wait to see the conclusions of the committee. In retrospect, I think my expectations were too high."

In addition to the powers given to the committee to examine the capital markets, it was also given a free hand to investigate other areas of the economy, something Ravitz said it failed to do.

While others, including Lieberman, attacked the committee's recommendations to tax short- and mid-term savings schemes, Ravitz said there is no injustice against small investors. However, he said these proposals should not have been part of the report, which attempts to persuade citizens to invest in long-term accounts and funds.

Instead, the report should have proposed graduated interest benefits for investments closed for 10 years or more, as is common in banks here and abroad.

Shohat also launched a strong attack on Lieberman. "He has no professional expertise," said Shohat. "He has had no experience of the capital markets in his life."

While casting doubt on the safe passage of the report through the government and Knesset stages, Ravitz said if the cabinet approves the recommendations, he will do his utmost to help ease the proposals into the statute books.

Despite the fact that No. 2 at the Bank of Israel, David Klein, sat on the committee, the central bank issued a statement yesterday saying it was still considering the findings of the report.

Experts: Brodet proposals avoid fundamental issues

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

TECHNICAL ideas cannot solve long-term problems, an economist who had been asked to participate in the Brodet Committee, but refused to do so, said yesterday.

The economist, a capital-market specialist who preferred to speak anonymously "out of respect for Finance Minister Dan Meridor," was reacting to the committee's proposals to encourage long-term savings and tax short-term savings.

While the committee tried to tackle some of the capital market's perennial problems, many experts claim it is nearly impossible to achieve those ends via taxation, he said.

He added that the committee's effectiveness was seriously crippled due to its lack of a mandate to reverse the previous government's pension-fund arrangement.

Comparing the Israeli market with overseas ones, the source said the local market's sharp fluctuations stem primarily from its relatively small size and few issues.

The main difference between markets, in Tel Aviv and Europe are that the latter are far more globalized, he said. German investors, for instance, cap-

purchase securities on Wall Street.

In Israel, meanwhile, fundamental macro-economic problems are preventing the kind of liberalization which would allow for such free, cross-border capital traffic.

While capital-market sources praised many of the report's proposals, especially the encouragement of long-term savings, they sharply criticized the committee's failure to effectively tackle the pension funds' predicaments.

The committee did not give an answer to the market's major problem, said Yitzhak Shrem, a partner in the Dovrat-Shrem company. "They did not deal with the pension funds' severe trading problems, which stand to be left with untradeable government bonds with fixed yields."

According to Shrem, the absence of an institutional system in the capital market leads to extreme market volatility. "There is no stabilizing body in the market," said Shrem, emphasizing that overseas the pension funds are active in the market.

"Pension funds' activity [abroad] is based on the fact that the equity yields higher returns than government bonds," said Shrem.

Porter Novelli, Gitam announce PR partnership

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

PORTER Novelli International, the world's fourth largest public relations firm, and Gitam/BBDO, Israel's leading advertising agency, yesterday announced the first public relations partnership between a foreign PR company and an Israeli affiliate.

The deal, which will allow Gitam to assume the Porter Novelli name and makes the company an equal partner in Porter Novelli's international network, represents a significant step in the expansion of the international public relations field and is indicative of Israel's growing prominence in the international business arena.

"Israel has a fertile business climate, and it's a good commercial marketplace," said Porter Novelli president Bob Druckenmiller, noting that Porter Novelli has affiliates in 38 countries and six co-branded affiliates in Europe, Central America and Australia.

Druckenmiller said the company, which has had previous contact with Israeli companies such as Teva Pharmaceuticals, selected Gitam due to its relationship with BBDO, an international advertising heavyweight.

Although there are many loose affiliations between international advertising companies and local agencies, BBDO became the first advertising agency to lend its name to an Israeli company when it joined forces with Gitam two years ago.

Moshe Teumim, director general of Gitam/BBDO, said Gitam Porter Novelli will offer Israeli clients international public relations services and provide international clients with local representation.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

70% of Jewish households own credit cards: About 70 percent of all Jewish households in Israel own credit cards, despite consumers' belief that the cards increase expenses, Israel Consumer Council reported yesterday based on a Geocartographia Institute survey. The reported yesterday based on a Geocartographia Institute survey revealed that 49% of all card holders believe credit card usage increases spending. Geocartographia questioned 505 households for the survey.
Galit Lipkis Beck

Britain's Serious Fraud Office poised to begin MGAM inquiry: Deutsche Morgan Grenfell said yesterday it had sacked fund manager Peter Young amid growing speculation that Britain's Serious Fraud Office (SFO) was poised to launch a probe into the activities of three investment funds. Banking sources said the inquiry into the Morgan Grenfell Asset Management (MGAM) funds could begin as soon as next week.
Reuters

Suissa: Ben-Gurion 2000 plan too far away

DAVID HARRIS

PLANS to expand Ben-Gurion Airport by the year 2000 should be brought forward, said Interior Minister Eli Suissa, during a meeting with senior Airports Authority officials earlier this week.

Meanwhile, in a series of other transport developments this week, the \$1 billion tenders for the extension of Haifa and Ashdod ports were put out and the committee looking into the future of the Port of Eilat recommended it stay in the same location and remain only a freight operation.

The Ben-Gurion plans, published by the Swary committee last month, included the immediate construction of a new terminal with three wings, 30 ports for airplanes and the necessary support infrastructure.

However, days later, airport director Shaul Hazan said even if construction began now, it would not be completed before 2000.

Plans for a second international airport, to be built at Neveatim in the Negev, supported by the previous government, have been all but shelved following the Swary report, which cited financial and geographic factors against its development.

The extra terminal at Ben Gurion will increase the airport's capacity to 12 million passengers a year. Seven million people used the airport last year, instead of the forecasted four million.

The Ports and Railways Authority advertised the tenders to extend Haifa Port East B and Ashdod Port North.

Egged separates tourism operation

HAIM SHAPIRO

EGGED has signed an agreement to set up a company dealing with tourism, fulfilling an understanding with the government to separate the firm's tourism operations from those of the public transport cooperative.

The agreement to form the separate company was signed between Egged and Talim Yiftah, a company with which Egged has worked for over 10 years, especially in the area of educational tourism.

The new company, to be known as Egged Talim Travel and Tours, is to be operating in January and will cover all areas of incoming, internal and outgoing tourism. It will unify all the current activities of Egged Tours and Talim Yiftah, which together have an annual turnover of NIS150 million.

The capital shares of the new company will amount to NIS3 million, with two-thirds held by Egged and the remainder by Talim Yiftah. According to the agreement, Talim Yiftah will have the right to increase its share to 40 percent. Of the six management shares, four are to be held by Egged and two by Talim Yiftah.

Weizman: Peace pushes exports

GREER FAY CASHMAN

ISRAEL'S export expansion this decade is attributable to the peace process, President Weizman said yesterday.

Speaking at the annual Outstanding Exporter awards ceremony at Beit Hanassi, Weizman said that Israel had acquired more markets and had become more accepted throughout the world than ever before. "because there's hope that we'll reach a stable and lasting peace with our neighbors."

Expressing his personal hope that the peace process with the Palestinians and the Syrians would proceed quickly, Weizman voiced

his conviction that some of Israel's export increases will be due to political advancement.

While lauding the efforts of exporters, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky stressed the importance of finding additional new markets and of making better use of the labor force.

Iscar chairman Steff Wertheimer, whose company was awarded the prestigious Export Prize, charged that neither the media, the public nor the Knesset understood the significance of exports, "which rank second only to security in determining Israel's continued existence."

BA to cut 5,000 jobs

LONDON (AP) - British Airways PLC intends to cut 5,000 jobs in Britain as part of a £1 billion restructuring program, its chief executive said yesterday. That's about 10 percent of the airline's work force of 49,000.

Chief Executive Bob Ayling said the firm hoped to make the cuts in 18 months, largely through retirement and voluntary resignation.

BA would continue to recruit staff with certain customer services and language skills, and by the year 2000 it expects its work force to be about as large as it is now, he said.

"I do not expect wholesale job losses," Ayling said. "Jobs will also be created and jobs secured. We will grow and improve. I am committed to a strategy of investment and improved profitability."

Ayling said management will be working with staff to produce detailed plans of where revenues can be increased and costs reduced.

Turner to head Time Warner's cable networks

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Turner Broadcasting System Inc. chief Ted Turner will head Time Warner's cable networks, including Home Box Office, once his company merges with the media giant, the two companies announced on Tuesday.

Turner Broadcasting's chairman and president will be a vice chairman at Time Warner, he and Time Warner Chairman Gerald Levin said in a joint announcement.

Turner also confirmed news reports that Scott Sassa, president of Turner Entertainment Group and a member of its board, would resign.

The resignation will be effective once the \$6.5 billion merger, which was approved last week by the Federal Trade Commission, is completed.

Once completed, the merger would create the world's largest media and entertainment concern. The announcement detailed Turner's role in the future company.

According to the statement, he

will oversee HBO Chairman Jeff Bewkes, as well as the head of Turner's Cable News Network, Tom Johnson, and Terry McGuirk, who will become chairman of TBS Inc.

New York-based Time Warner is the nation's No. 2 cable TV operator, after Englewood, Colorado based Tele-Communications Inc. Levin said creating cable networks and making them grow was a different business from creating entertainment and other content and distributing it.

"Ted Turner created this business and knows it better than anyone else," he said in the statement. "Assembling all of our cable programming assets under Ted's leadership will ensure the continued growth and development of these assets and maximize our ability to build and deliver value for our shareholders," Levin said.

Turner was similarly upbeat. "Jeff, Tom and Terry are a superb team of executives," he said. "We combine great assets with great management, and our growth

prospects are excellent. I couldn't be more excited about the opportunities for our group going forward."

Turner also wished Sassa well, saying he had played an important

role at Turner Entertainment.

Turner and Time Warner have scheduled separate meetings for October 10 to allow their shareholders to vote on the merger, first announced nearly a year ago.



North Korean children march and sing on their way home from school in the Rajin Songbong free trade zone, where 450 foreign businessmen and academics attended a business and investment forum this week.

The Israel Electric Corporation
Tenders
The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to inform bidders of changes in the following tenders:

- Tender No. 560799 - Communication Cables
The requirement that the manufacturer meet the ISO 9002 standard or the Israeli 2002 standard has been cancelled.
- Tender No. 565938 (Specification No. 55301) - Cable trays - Fiberglass - CE
Last date for submitting bids is now November 3, 1996.

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Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents
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Redemption Price: 110.09

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS					
Patrah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)					
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS		
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375		
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250		
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.625	2.125		
Yen (10 million yen)	0.625	0.750	1.000		
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)					
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (18.9.96)					
CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.5206	3.5778	3.09	3.26	3.5494
German mark	3.1454	3.1922	2.04	2.15	3.1700
French franc	2.0788	2.1122	2.00	2.15	2.0673
Japanese yen (100)	4.9038	4.9829	4.81	5.06	4.9438
Dutch guilder	0.8703	0.8932	0.89	0.93	0.8153
Swiss franc	2.8542	2.9005	2.82	2.96	2.8778
Swedish krona	1.8551	1.8851	1.82	1.92	1.8708
Norwegian krona	2.5276	2.5683	2.48	2.61	2.5491
Denish krone	0.4858	0.4818	0.46	0.49	0.4780
Finnish mark	0.5398	0.5494	0.67	0.72	0.4989
Canadian dollar	0.6816	0.7028	0.53	0.56	0.5443
Australian dollar	2.2935	2.3305	2.25	2.37	2.2985
S. African rand	2.772	2.8120	2.43	2.58	2.3109
Belgian franc (10)	0.7008	0.7120	0.63	0.72	0.6783
Austrian schilling (10)	1.0098	1.0259	0.89	1.05	0.9783
Italian lira (1000)	2.9549	3.0028	2.90	3.05	2.9800
Spanish peseta (100)	2.0588	2.0821	2.02	2.13	2.0783
Egyptian pound	4.3700	0.8700	4.37	4.67	4.5014
Irish punt	0.8900	0.9040	0.87	0.97	0.9583
Spanish peseta (100)	3.9404	4.0040	3.97	4.22	3.9747
	5.0583	5.1389	4.97	5.22	5.1013
	2.4697	2.5098	2.42	2.53	2.4698

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Berkowitz signs record deal with Southampton

A month after he was rejected by Southampton of the English Premier League, Eyal Berkowitz yesterday confirmed that he would be moving to the southern port city after all, in a deal said to be worth £1.2 million, a record price for an Israeli soccer player.

The Maccabi Haifa star returned home with great disappointment in August after Southampton manager Graeme Souness gave him the runaround, keeping Berkowitz waiting for several days before

telling him that the midfielder's services were not required.

The deal will buy Southampton Berkowitz's services for three years, and the player is set to earn some £170,000 in his first season.

The transfer fee breaks the previous record of £1 million for an Israeli player which Liverpool paid FC Bruges for Ronnie Rosenthal in 1990.

Berkowitz becomes the second

Israeli to play in England - now generally considered to be the best league in the world - after Rosenthal, who now plays for Tottenham Hotspur. Berkowitz flies to England for a medical next week, and all being well, will join the club immediately thereafter.

"Souness thought I would not fit in with his game plan for the club, but he obviously realized that he made a mistake [by not signing

me in August] and now he's admitted it," Berkowitz told Channel 1's *Mabat* last night.

"I had always wanted to play in Europe, and now hope to realize my ambition in the very near future," he said.

Southampton is desperate for a change of fortunes and Souness is obviously hoping that Berkowitz can make a difference to his club which languishes in the next-to-bottom spot in the standings after six matches played.

Maccabi faces Limoges in Euro League opener

BRIAN FREEMAN

The wait is over. After a summer of anticipation for European basketball's newest era, Maccabi Tel Aviv plays Limoges tonight in France in one of the 12 games tipping off the Euro League's debut season.

More teams with more foreign players will play more games, but in the end it will still be the club that scores the most points that wins.

Maccabi took advantage of the new Bosman ruling - which doesn't count any European players as the two allowable foreigners and is less stringent on naturalizing non-European foreigners - to bolster its squad with Constantin Popa, Derek Sharp and Borko Radovic, in addition to its two foreign players - Buck Johnson and Randy White.

Those additions, combined with the signing of Doron Sheffer and the return of Oded Katash, Nadav Henefeld, Guy Goodes and Brad Leaf, have lifted hopes for a trip to the Final Four for the first time since 1991.

Although Maccabi's vaunted depth has been dealt somewhat of a blow tonight, since Sharp and Goodes did not even make the trip to France due to injury, expectations have been heightened by one of the most successful preseasons in recent memory. Maccabi had a 13-0 mark in exhibition tournaments against European foes, as well as a win in its first league game against Givat Shmuel on Monday.

However, a tough road lies ahead for the Israelis, as every other club in Europe had the same opportunity to bolster its ranks.

Limoges is no exception. This proud club, which has appeared in three European Final Fours - including winning the 1993 title - has revamped its squad following a season in which it did not participate in the European championships, failed to advance from

each game, the opposite might very well be true.

Since the first pool (four groups of six teams each) is only 10 games, the struggle to finish in the top three will be very intense.

Although even the bottom three will also move on to the second pool, they will have to play the top three teams from another group.

Since the record from the first group of 10 games carry over to the second group of six games, it will be very difficult for a bottom team to overcome the difference and become one of the four teams from the new group to advance to the final 16. Making it even more difficult is that those six games must all be played against top teams.

Maccabi is 7-5 against Limoges in the championships, including 3-3 in France. Maccabi last played Limoges during the French club's 1993 European championship season, losing in France 75-63.

For the superstitious, the stars bode well for Maccabi this season. In the three previous seasons in which FIBA significantly changed the format of the championships, Maccabi had successful seasons, winning the title in 1977 (when the basic final pool structure was created), reaching the championship game in 1988 (the first year of the Final Four) and advancing to the quarter-finals in 1992 (the season the final pool was expanded to 16 teams).

Tonight's game will be broadcast live on Channel 1 starting at 8:30 pm.

the final pool in the secondary European Cup and did not capture the French title.

Gone from Limoges are longtime star Richard Dacoury and frontcourt veteran Jim Bilba, two of the anchors of the 1993 team, as well as both foreign players from last season.

Gone as well is the trio of coaches last year, including Maccabi head coach Zvi Scherf. The new man at the helm is Bogdan Tanjevic, the Yugoslav coach who spent 15 years in Italy, including leading Stefanel Milan to the league title and National Cup last season.

Tanjevic tried to bring along with him from Milan former NBA star Rolando Blackman as one of the foreigners, but the deal fell through.

Instead, Limoges settled on two other former NBA players, 35-year-old point guard Vern Fleming and small forward Gerald Glass, whose contributions tonight will be questionable since he only joined the team a few days ago. The club also acquired two "Bosman" centers, both of whom are very familiar to Maccabi fans: Spencer Dunkley, an English citizen who played for Maccabi in the 1993-94 season, and veteran Jean Jacques Conceicao, who labored for years in the European championships with hapless Benfica Lisbon.

Limoges, which has won its first two games in the French league, is centered around super forward Yann Bonato, the 25-year-old who last season averaged 18.6 points for the team in the European Cup. Also returning from last year is forward Hugues Occaney and guard Frederic Forte, the last remaining regular from the 1993 title team.

Although the tournament's expanded format might, on the surface, relieve the pressure of

EUROPEAN SCHEDULE
Tonight at Limoges
September 28: CSKA Moscow
October 3: Stefanel Milan
October 10: at Parisinos
October 17: at Ulfar
November 7: Limoges
November 14: at CSKA Moscow
November 21: at Stefanel Milan
December 6: Parisinos
December 12: Ulfar

'Boro crushes Hereford 7-0 in League Cup

LONDON (AP) - Italian star Fabrizio Ravanelli hit four goals and Brazilians Emerson and Branco netted one each as Middlesbrough romped to a 7-0 victory over Division Three bottom club Hereford yesterday in the second round of the League Cup.

Hereford has little hope of turning round that lead in the second leg against a Middlesbrough team which has scored 14 goals in six games in the Premier League and looks hungry for more. Curtis Fleming also hit the target at the Riverside Stadium.

Birmingham looked like scoring the one upset of the night when it led until injury time against Premier League neighbor Coventry at Highfield Road. Paul Furlong scored after 37 minutes but former Birmingham defender Liam Daish earned the Sky Blues an equalizer with a late strike for a 1-1 tie.

Leeds was held 2-2 by division three Darlington at Elland Road.

YESTERDAY'S ENGLISH LEAGUE CUP RESULTS (Second round, first leg): Barnet 1, West Ham 1; Blackpool 1, Chelsea 4; Bristol City 0, Bolton 0; Coventry 1, Birmingham 1; Everton 1, York 1; Leeds 2, Darlington 2; Middlesbrough 7, Hereford 0; Nottingham Forest 1, Wycombe 0; Sheffield Wednesday 1, Oxford United 1; Southampton 2, Peterborough 0; Stoke 1, Northampton 0; Swindon 1, Queens Park Rangers 2; Wimbledon 1, Portsmouth 0.

European coaches seek more player time

Frustrated at being forced to scramble players together at short notice, Europe's national team coaches are calling on domestic leagues to allow them 10-day spells in which they play two international games instead of one.

The coaches figure the move would help both clubs and countries. Players would be freed from their clubs on fewer occasions to play World Cup and European Championship qualifying games instead of being dragged away every four or six weeks.

"I believe it's a really good idea," said UEFA technical director Andy Roxburgh, former national team manager of Scotland.

"From the clubs' point of view it's very attractive because you get two international matches without the loss of a weekend." AP

Djordjevic: I'm staying with Blazers

Aleksandar Djordjevic, who helped Yugoslavia win a silver medal at the Atlanta Olympics, said he will sign a contract with the Portland Trail Blazers.

The 6-foot-2 point guard said at a news conference in Belgrade on Tuesday that he was leaving for Oregon on Wednesday.

"By transferring to Portland, part of my dreams have come true," Djordjevic said, "and if I stay in America, it means my quality has been confirmed."

Blazers president Bob Whitsitt confirmed he has been talking with Djordjevic and that Djordjevic was coming to Portland this week. No contract has been signed, Whitsitt said. AP

Stockton sticks with Jazz

John Stockton, forsaking millions of dollars to finish his NBA career in Utah, has agreed to a three-year, \$15 million contract with the Jazz.

The team said Tuesday the 34-year-old All-Star guard is to sign when he arrives in Utah for the start of training on October 5.

"We're pleased things have worked out and John plans to sign what will likely be his final NBA contract with the Jazz," team owner Larry Miller said. "He has contributed more to this franchise than numbers alone will ever tell." AP

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SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL - Hapoel Jerusalem 82, Brandt Hagen 78; SSV Ulm 92, Hapoel Galil Elyon 88.

Revivo gets match moved for Yom Kippur

VIGO, Spain (AP) - Haim Revivo wanted to play in Sunday's match against Spanish soccer league leader Real Betis.

But with Yom Kippur beginning at sunset, the Israeli star wasn't sure if the game would be over in time to attend religious services.

So Revivo's team Celta, eager to have their

striker on the field, decided to move the starting time of Sunday's game back an hour.

"This is the first time I've spent Yom Kippur outside my country, and it is very important for me to respect this ceremony," Revivo told the Madrid daily *El Pais*. To make the start of the holiday, Revivo, who consulted with a

Madrid rabbi before deciding to play, plans to dress quickly and return home for the service.

Revivo is the first Israeli to play in Spain's soccer league, one of the top in Europe.

Celta, which plays in the fishing city of Vigo along Spain's Galician coast, lies in 12th place in the 22-team league after three games.

No-no for Nomo Dodgers' pitching ace blanks Rockies at Coors, 9-0

DENVER - Hideo Nomo threw the 20th no-hitter in Dodger history - and the first ever in hitter-friendly Coors Field - as Los Angeles beat the Colorado Rockies 9-0 Tuesday, padding their Western Division lead.

Nomo (16-10), who walked four, retired the final 11 batters en route to the major leagues' third no-hitter of the season, joining the Yankees' Dwight Gooden and Florida's Al Leiter.

Nomo, the first Japanese pitcher to hurl a no-hitter, retired all three batters in the ninth. The hard-throwing right-hander induced Eric Young to ground out to second for the first out and then got Quinton McCracken on a first-pitch grounder to the same spot. Nomo struck out Ellis Burks, his eighth strikeout of the game, for the final out.

Nomo, who won his fourth consecutive decision, allowed just two hits over eight innings five days ago against the Cardinals. Nomo improved to 3-0 lifetime in Colorado.

"I only concentrated on (the no-hitter) in the ninth inning," said Nomo through an interpreter.

The Dodgers won their 11th straight, increasing their National League West lead to 1 1/2 games over San Diego.

Ramon Martinez, the last foreign-born player to throw a no-hitter, was also the last Dodger to throw a no-no. Martinez turned the trick on July 14, 1995 against Florida.

The Rockies were also no-hit on May 11 by Leiter. The 1977 Angels were the last major-league team to be no-hit twice. The 1971 Reds were the last NL team to be held without a hit twice in the same season.

Pirates 5, Reds 3

The host Pirates beat the Cincinnati Reds behind the hitting of John Welmher in Jim Leyland's first game as Pittsburgh's lame-duck manager.

Welmher went 3-for-3 and scored three runs as the Pirates won their



IMPERIAL DELIVERY - Hideo Nomo threw the third no-hitter of the season.

season-high sixth straight game.

Leyland, in his 11th year in Pittsburgh, announced earlier in the day that he will leave the Pirates after this season to pursue a job with a contending team. The Pirates, in last place in the Central Division with a 64-86 record, have decided to cut their payroll by trading away most of their veterans.

Braves 5, Astros 4

John Smoltz became the majors' first 22-game winner, and Ryan Klesko hit a three-run double.

It was the third straight victory for the host Braves after losing six in a row. Atlanta lowered its magic number to seven for clinching its fifth straight postseason berth.

The Astros, who fell to 0-8 on the road this month, lost their fourth in

a row and seventh in nine games.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Indians 9, White Sox 4

The visiting Indians clinched their second straight American League Central Division title as Kevin Seitzer blasted a grand slam and Manny Ramirez had four hits and three RBIs.

Cleveland (91-59), which has won eight of its last nine games, became the first major-league team to qualify for the post-season. It is the first time in the 96-year history of the club it has reached the playoffs in consecutive seasons.

"In some ways it has been a very difficult year, but in some ways it has also been one of the most satisfying years I've been involved

with," Indians manager Mike Hargrove said. "Things really came together for us after the All-Star break and these guys are all winners."

The Indians jumped on Alex Fernandez (14-10) in the first inning as Jim Thome, Albert Belle, Julio Franco and Ramirez singled with two out to plate two runs. Franco stole home on the front end of a double steal to make it 3-0.

After Frank Thomas' 37th homer - his fifth in three games - cut it to 3-1, Cleveland added five more runs in the second, capped by Seitzer's 13th homer and fourth career grand slam to make it 7-1. Ramirez got an RBI single one out later.

(Reuter, AP)

TUESDAY'S NL RESULTS:

Pittsburgh 5, Cincinnati 3
Montreal 7, New York 1
Florida 11, Philadelphia 5
Atlanta 5, Houston 4
St. Louis 5, Chicago 3
San Francisco 9, San Diego 7
Los Angeles 9, Colorado 0

TUESDAY'S AL RESULTS:

Boston 4, Detroit 2
Cleveland 9, Chicago 4
Baltimore at New York, ppd., rain
Kansas City 4, Minnesota 2
Milwaukee 4, Toronto 0
Seattle 5, Texas 2
Oakland 5, California 1

NATIONAL LEAGUE				AMERICAN LEAGUE			
East Division				East Division			
W	L	Pct.	GB	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	89	81	.523	New York	85	64	.570
Montreal	83	87	.553	Baltimore	82	87	.550
Florida	73	79	.480	Boston	77	78	.513
New York	67	84	.444	Toronto	68	83	.450
Philadelphia	61	90	.404	Detroit	51	100	.338
Central Division				Central Division			
St. Louis	81	70	.536	Cleveland	81	59	.567
Houston	78	74	.513	Chicago	80	72	.526
Chicago	74	75	.497	Minnesota	74	77	.480
Cincinnati	74	78	.493	Milwaukee	74	78	.487
Pittsburgh	68	85	.433	Kansas City	71	80	.470
West Division				West Division			
Los Angeles	86	65	.570	Texas	84	67	.556
San Diego	85	67	.559	Seattle	79	70	.530
Colorado	79	78	.520	Oakland	73	79	.480
San Francisco	61	90	.404	California	65	85	.433

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Olympic 'aftermath' committee riddled with disputes

LOCAL SCENE HEATHER CHAIT

THE 14-person committee set up to deal with the results of the Israelis in Atlanta in preparation for the Sydney games is being riddled with disputes even before it rolls into action.

Chaired by Dov Levin and appointed by the Olympic Committee of Israel and the Ministry of Education and Sport, the committee is already under fire for including judoka Yael Arad.

While Arad retired from competition after Atlanta, critics object to her sitting on a panel which is essentially studying her performance, among others.

Also kicking up dust is Yoram Oberkovich, president of the IOC, who is questioning the legitimacy of a committee which has members directly or indirectly on the payroll of the officiating body.

Cash, Wimbledon winner in 1987, has requested a wildcard entry to the Eisenberg Israel Open next month but will have to settle for doubles play because Israeli

players will be snapping up the wildcards. Eyal Ran, at his new world ranking of 158, is sure to lead the local rush for places.

Meanwhile, two players who will be here for the tournament, second seed Albert Costa from Spain and Germany's Marc-Kevin Goellner, fought the final of a tournament in Bournemouth last week with victory going to the Spaniard.

Ping pong gold

The national youth table tennis team beat their host Croatia in the final of the Mediterranean Youth Games in Split.

The team of Shimon Kalberts, Yaniv Sharon and Oshad Faniel, beat Croatia 2:1 after knocking out Egypt 2:1 in the semifinal. Among the 16 teams competing were Morocco and Algeria.

This weekend matches in the European cup will be held with Maccabi Tel Aviv taking on a Yugoslavian team and Betar Rishon LeZion's women playing against Denmark's top team.



Navy lacks gear to raise chopper from sea floor

IDF will turn to foreign salvage company

THE navy succeeded yesterday in locating the acoustic beacon of the Dolphin helicopter which crashed at sea Monday night, but it is on the sea floor at a 650-meter depth, and the navy does not have the equipment to recover it.

Two of the helicopter's three crew members are still missing.

The working assumption is that the beacon is still attached to the helicopter and rests on the sea floor some 12 nautical miles east

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

of Nahariya.

Since the crash, naval vessels and helicopters have been searching for the bodies of the pilot, Lt. Col. Zion Bachar, 35, and communications officer Lt. Eran Gravia, 23, but to no avail. The army even sent foot patrols along the shore, but nothing was found. The body of the navigator, Shahak Sela, was found on Tuesday.

The navy does not have the special equipment, operated by foreign salvage companies, needed to lift the Dolphin from such a depth. It is seeking the services of such a company to help it retrieve the helicopter, the army said.

So far, the tail of the helicopter and two pilots' helmets have been found, but without the body of the craft it will be difficult to determine the cause of the crash, which occurred during a routine exercise.

Gabi Last appointed deputy inspector-general

TEL Aviv Police Chief Gabi Last was named deputy inspector-general yesterday, in a decision made by Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz and Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani that is expected to be followed by a series of other senior appointments.

BILL HUTMAN and RAINE MARCUS

next inspector-general.

Sources close to Amit said he was waiting until after the meeting with Kahalani to decide whether to stay on.

Hefetz called Amit to his office after the announcement of the Last appointment. Sources said Hefetz wants Amit to stay in his post, but that the Jerusalem police chief did not commit himself.

Kahalani has called Jerusalem Police chief Cmdr. Arye Amit to his office today, amidst speculation that Amit would resign over the Last appointment. The Jerusalem police chief has long seen himself as Hefetz's successor.

But Last, who has replaced Hefetz while the latter has been abroad or on vacation, has never concealed his wish to become the

Rehov Bar-Ilan.

"It was a tough choice between several fine officers, and I'm sure the relations between Amit and Kahalani had a lot to do with it," a senior police source said.

Officers and coworkers at the Tel Aviv headquarters had mixed feelings yesterday.

"While we are really pleased for him, we will be sorry to see him go," one officer said. "And of course, we don't know who will replace him."

Last was criticized recently after being accused of ordering officers to remove his phone number from the lists of phone calls made by former IDF and police officer Ya'acov Bak, who is serving a prison term for conspiring to murder.

However, after examining the affair, the Justice Ministry concluded that there were no grounds for launching a criminal investigation.

Panel named to develop IDF motivation program for students

EDUCATION Minister Zevulun Hammer yesterday appointed a committee to formulate a detailed program to raise high school pupils' motivation to serve in the IDF, the ministry announced.

The low motivation is not solely the IDF's problem, Hammer said, at a special meeting attended by top ministry officials and a Defense Ministry representative yesterday.

By developing the right program, the Education and Defense ministries, in cooperation with the IDF, can solve the problem and restore to its previous level the youth's desire to serve their country.

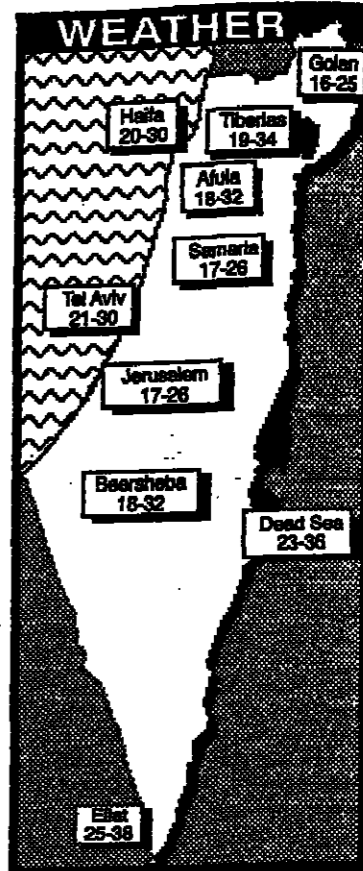
Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled (Tsovet) will head the committee. The other members are ministry director-general Ben-Zion Del, Pedagogical Center director Prof. Ozer Schild and Youth Department head Oded Cohen.

Their program will initially be instituted in 120 high schools, and if it is successful it will be conducted in every high school in the country, Hammer said.

(TIM)



Sailors lower a device to try to pick up a signal from the crashed Dolphin helicopter, as the search for the two missing crew members continued yesterday. (IDF Spokesman)



AROUND THE WORLD

City	Temp	Weather
Amsterdam	16	cloudy
Berlin	16	cloudy
Buenos Aires	17	clear
Chicago	20	partly cloudy
Copenhagen	15	cloudy
Frankfurt	15	cloudy
Geneva	16	cloudy
Hamburg	16	rain
Hong Kong	27	cloudy
Jakarta	27	cloudy
London	15	cloudy
Los Angeles	19	clear
Moscow	15	cloudy
Madrid	17	cloudy
Mexico	27	clear
New York	13	rain
Paris	16	rain
Rome	16	rain
Stockholm	16	cloudy
Tokyo	20	clear
Toronto	13	rain
Vancouver	13	rain
Zurich	16	cloudy

Winning

IN yesterday's daily drawing, the winning card was the eight of spades, the eight of diamonds and the queen of clubs.

Judge releases two due to jail conditions

BILL HUTMAN and Itim

TWO men held by police on suspicion of illegal drug possession were released by the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court recently, on grounds that conditions at the Russian Compound lock-up were "horrendous."

At a remand hearing on Friday, one suspect's lawyer, Reuven Bar-Haim, appealed to the court to release his client on grounds the Russian Compound lock-up was overcrowded and dilapidated.

Court President Judge Amnon Cohen decided to have a look for himself, as the lock-up is a short walk from the courthouse. After a visit inside the

lock-up, Cohen released the suspect on bail.

"What I saw in the lock-up horrified me," Cohen wrote in his decision. "In cells that are meant for only 10 detainees, 18 detainees are being held. Some are sleeping on the floor, while others have stone beds."

An appeal of the decision by police to the district court was turned down.

Earlier this week, another suspect, being held on suspicion of possession of 1.5 kg of marijuana, and also represented by Bar-Haim, was

released by Magistrate's Court Judge Zilberal on the same grounds.

The Russian Compound lock-up is run by the Jerusalem Police, and in general used to hold suspects awaiting trial, or convicted criminals awaiting a transfer to a Prison Service prison. The police spokesman was unavailable for comment on the criticism by the court.

Only last month, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani visited the Russian Compound lock-up, and said he found the conditions acceptable.

Search for Edri renewed

POLICE yesterday renewed the search for missing soldier Sharon Edri, concentrating their efforts on the area near the Tzifia army base, where he was last seen 10 days ago.

A police spokesman said investigators wanted to be certain they didn't miss anything when they searched the area last week.

He said the search, called off on Friday, was not renewed because of any new information about Edri's possible whereabouts. Bill Hutman

Clalit workers threaten to strike over plans for outsourcing

KUPAT Holim Clalit workers yesterday declared a labor dispute over the management's plans to transfer whole units to outside contractors.

According to the union, the health fund will start by "outsourcing" the distribution of medications to private companies, leaving 300 Clalit workers without jobs.

The union said that it would prevent the outsiders from entering health fund facilities and would strike if management carried out its plans. Judy Siegel

Clalit spokeswoman Rabel Bluestein dismissed the claims, saying that the new contractor, Chemipal, was not taking work away from staffers, but only replacing a different contractor that had acted as a distributor to private pharmacies.

Meanwhile, the Israel Medical Association has voiced its "full backing" for a struggle by public hospital nurses, who held a 24-hour strike earlier this week to protest inadequate nursing manpower.

Maccabi launches campaign to change health insurance system

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Maccabi health fund has launched a public campaign to change the national health insurance system, which went into effect in January 1995.

Health fund director-general Shabtai Shavit, at a press conference yesterday, said it is "common knowledge" that the system was instituted, among other reasons, to save Kupat Holim Clalit from collapse. While this "patient" was saved, Shavit said, the new system caused a serious deterioration in the financial situation of the smaller health funds, including Maccabi - the country's second largest, with a million members.

He called for the immediate institution of a basket of complementary health services, including nursing care, dentistry, alternative medicine, consultations with outside specialists and medical implants.

Nearly two years after the system was instituted, numerous corrections are needed, said Shavit, who took office a few months ago. The changes must increase competition among the insurers and their own freedom of action, to counter the government's growing tendency to increase the nationalization of health ser-

vices, which characterizes Bolshevik regimes," he said.

Among the problems Shavit listed was a NIS 1 billion deficit in the system of residents to change their health fund any time they want, and from the health funds to the government.

He called for the previous arrangement, whereby new mothers' obstetrics expenses were paid for directly by the National Insurance Institute; annual updating of medical service prices according to the increase in the medical COL index; and a quarterly updating of health tax allocations among the health funds.

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